

Gay candidates lose
Election results
for the West Coast.
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Shavian wit
An interview with writer,
porn icon Aiden Shaw.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 28 • No. 23 • 4 June 1998

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Clinton standardizes protection for gay federal employees

by Bob Roehr

President Bill Clinton signed an executive order that protects civilian lesbian and gay federal employees from job discrimination. In a statement issued on May 28, the President said, "The Order provides a uniform policy for the Federal Government to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation."

In 1992, candidate Clinton had pledged to issue such an order, but once in office he shunned direct action and eventually settled on a piecemeal approach of directing each federal agency to write such protection into their individual personnel policies.

That effort was pushed along in December 1993 by settlement of an employment discrimination suit between the FBI and former agent Frank Buttino. In the settlement, the FBI agreed not to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation and to include that in its personnel policy. Most, but not all federal departments, eventually did the same.

The result was a patchwork of differing policies. This order was meant to standardize practice, rather than extend new protections. As the Clinton statement noted, the order "does not and cannot create any new enforcement rights [such as the ability to proceed before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission]. Those rights can be granted only by

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SF throws equal benefits law a party

by Cynthia Laird



Hate-filled picketers from the Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kansas came to San Francisco to protest the city's equal benefits law at City Hall, but stopped off at MCC-SF Sunday, May 31, where they were greeted with a throng of counter-protesters.

Rick Gerhart

A handful of protesters from the Topeka, Kansas-based Westboro Baptist Church in front of City Hall did nothing to disrupt or dampen the enthusiasm of local gay leaders and elected officials celebrating the one-year anniversary of San Francisco's landmark equal benefits law Monday, June 1. The celebration continued without incident, including the presentation of certificates of appreciation to many involved with crafting, defending, and implementing the ordinance. The only thing that seemed to disturb the equal benefit supporters was that a few adults bearing the hate-filled signs had brought children with them.

The Kansas group brought their "God Hates Fags" placards to City Hall to protest the law, which requires businesses contracting with the city to offer benefits to domestic partners of employees, if they offer the benefits to spouses. Ironically, police cor-

doned them off next to an outdoor sculpture by openly gay artist Keith Haring, one of many that are displayed throughout the city.

"They are bigoted, hateful, ignorant people," Treasurer Susan Leal told the B.A.R. as she passed by the small group. "It serves to motivate all of us, straight or queer, to keep working on equal rights."

Upstairs the mood was jubilant as Mayor Willie Brown kicked off a brief program honoring those who worked on the ordinance. The city's Human Rights Commission (HRC), which has been charged with implementing the law, distributed 74 pages that listed the 1,738 companies that now provide domestic partner benefits and are in compliance.

Almost all of the supervisors were on hand, along with City Attorney Louise Renne and Deputy City Attorney Dennis Aftergut who defended the law in federal court and were successful in that the bulk of the ordinance

was upheld in April by U.S. District Judge Claudia Wilken. Several outside law firms and organizations that worked on the case were also recognized by Supervisor Leslie Katz.

The mayor presented proclamations to Harvey Milk Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Democratic Club members Carol Stuart, Jeff Sheehy, and Geoff Kors for their work coming up with the idea. Supervisor Tom Ammiano recognized HRC staff members, while Leal presented a certificate to the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce. Rhea Serpan, chamber president, was an early proponent of the law; on Monday he reiterated that support, noting that "equal benefits for all is good business."

The Westboro group preceded the City Hall demonstration with pickets outside Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco and Grace Cathedral last Sunday. Police arrested a gay counter-demonstrator at MCC-SF. ▼

Supes clear partly cloudy sunshine

by Cynthia Laird
and Mark Mardon

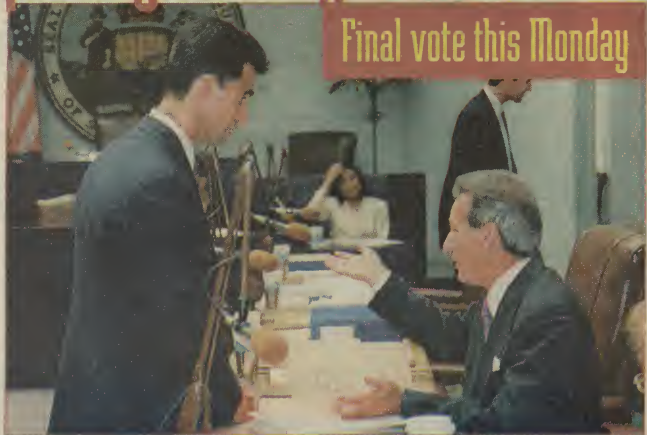
Like most things in government, the ordinance that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors approved June 1 to bring "sunshine," or accountability to nonprofit agencies that receive city funds, was a compromise. After Supervisor Tom Ammiano fought several months to get the cutting-edge legislation through the full board, and after the ordinance was spared a continuance by a 6-5 vote against Supervisor Mabel Teng's strategic move to kill it, board members still extensively discussed the topic before they took the 10-1 vote Monday.

Under the legislation, nonprofit organizations that receive a minimum of \$250,000 in city-administered public funds would be required to open up board meetings and disclose some financial information.

Ammiano told the B.A.R. he is "cautious-

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Final vote this Monday



Last minute huddle: San Francisco Supervisors Mark Leno, left, and Tom Ammiano converse shortly before the board's vote on sunshine.

Cynthia Laird

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FIRST OF THREE SECTIONS

ISN'T IT TIME YOU CALLED?

Reprinted from THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 1998

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A Second Life: Survivors of Illnesses May Find Finances in Need of Care

YOUR MONEY MATTERS

By LYNN ASINOF

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

New drugs and medical advances have meant a second chance for many people diagnosed with major illnesses such as cancer and AIDS. But for some, the blessing of improved health has been a financial curse.

Having sold life-insurance benefits, run up huge debts, raided retirement funds and gone on disability, many of these people structured a life that had no tomorrow.

"They planned for the inevitable, and the inevitable didn't happen," says Brent A. Neiser, director of collaborative programs at the National Endowment for Financial Education in Denver.

Now they must shift gears and figure out how to live. To come up with a new strategy, these people need to take a good, hard look at their health, their assets, their benefits, their dreams and their tolerance for risk. Their new plans need to include not only the cost of a chronic illness but also the possibility of living well into retirement.

For many, the picture isn't pretty. Thomas W. Swift, a San Francisco investment adviser, has reason to know firsthand. HIV positive himself, he cashed in his retirement account and moved to San Francisco in 1996, prepared to die. When his prognosis changed, he decided he needed a new plan. That plan led him to his current work, addressing the long-term financial needs of the HIV-positive community.

"I have quite a few people who have zero savings," says Mr. Swift, who is with Horton Investment Advisory Group.

In many cases, the money went to pay medical bills and living expenses. Some people compounded their problems by making irrational financial decisions. Patricia C. Drivanos, a New York financial adviser, tells of a man diagnosed with cancer who immediately sold all his investments. The sales created a massive tax liability that depleted his resources, she says.

Advisers also tell stories of people who in the face of imminent death chose to spend extravagantly. One of Mr. Swift's clients, for example, ran up a \$45,000 credit-card debt buying electronics equipment.

Whatever their individual stories, all those fortunate enough to count themselves among the survivors now must try to reposition themselves financially for an unexpected future. The tenuousness of the reprieve makes the task more challenging.

Cancer goes into remission, for example, but can recur. HIV drugs extend life but don't cure the disease. And the drugs used to battle both can be debilitating. "The problem with the drugs for HIV is that they are experimental," says Ms. Drivanos, noting these drugs are also known to cause both liver and heart damage.

Moreover, just because someone is no longer dying doesn't mean they are able to live a full life and return to work. Because a return to work often means dismantling a carefully constructed safety net, people should be brutally honest about how they feel and whether they can handle a regular 9-to-5 day.

Typically, the safety net includes disability benefits, health-insurance benefits, Social Security and perhaps Medicare. These benefits often are so valuable that it can be hard to figure out an exit strategy.

"My clients are not just in their safety net, they are completely entangled in it," explains Mr. Swift.

Coming up with a way out often means both homework and compromise. Start by sitting down and reviewing your various insurance plans and benefits, says Mark Scherzer, a New York attorney who specializes in individual-insurance issues.

Your disability policy, for example, may let you to go back to work part time and still retain some benefits. "It's not universal, but the majority allow you to go back part time," he explains. This means people can "test the waters and see what their stamina is" before returning to full-time work.

Such a step is also less risky, he says, if your policy covers "recurrent disability." This means that if you go back to work but become disabled by the same condition within a certain period of time—let's say, six months or a year—you can renew your claim.

Just last week, Mr. Scherzer had a client who wanted to return to work after being on disability since the early '90s. "We found that he had a recurrent-disability clause that didn't have any time limit on it at all."

Social Security also offers a trial return-to-work program, which allows people to work for as long as nine months on a full- or part-time basis before jeopardizing their benefits.

Make sure you understand whether your disability ends when you return to any employment or only when you return to work in your own occupation. "Group coverage tends to be a combination—for the first two years it tends to be your own occupation, then it goes to any occupation," explains Ms. Drivanos.

This distinction can make a big differ-

ence to many. Those who can't physically return to their old jobs may be able to find something else that they've always wanted to do and still retain benefits. Indeed, many have no desire to return to their old professions. Having faced their own death, they want to grab the proverbial brass ring and try something new.

But people who make that kind of switch may jeopardize their health coverage. By changing jobs, they may lose benefits provided by their old employer, and face a waiting period before qualifying for new health insurance.

"If you are going to a new job, you have to evaluate benefits carefully," says Jill Peetluk Feinstein, a Northport, N.Y., financial adviser. For some, that may mean tempering their dreams so that they can continue to have the benefits needed to live.

Life insurance also needs attention, she says. People on disability often get a waiver of premium. Once they are no longer disabled, they must resume policy payments or risk losing the coverage.

Budgeting is an important part of any new strategy. Doing a basic cash-flow analysis will provide a clear picture of how much money is coming in and how much is going out. Then, if necessary, people can adjust their lifestyle to reflect the fact that there is going to be a day after tomorrow.

An investment portfolio for the living is also far different from the cash-heavy approach typically taken by the dying. Many terminally ill people move to cash so that they have the money to pay medical bills and other expenses.

"Someone who is not terminal can lengthen their maturity and take a little more risk," says Ms. Feinstein. Those who go back to work may want to accelerate their retirement savings. "If you are going to live a longer life you may need those dollars to live on in retirement," she says.

Some may already have significant assets from selling life-insurance benefits to a viatical company or tapping their retirement funds. But often these assets are invested without thought to the future.

"They have done whatever they wanted with it," says Mr. Swift, noting one client put all his life-insurance money into real estate that produced little income. Another wanted to invest it all in a single stock, and a third simply put it in the bank. Now, he says, these people need to use those assets to create the income needed for them to live.

That doesn't necessarily mean just creating a diversified stock portfolio. "In some cases that means making an investment in themselves," Mr. Swift says. Going back to school, getting a graduate degree or other professional training may pay off better in the long run, he says.

"It is important to reclaim your dreams," he says. "Part of coming back to life is being able to reinvest in yourself."

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Gay café part of 'Israel in the Park'

by Shan Schwartz

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is exhibiting a taste of gay Israel as part of a larger Jewish celebration this weekend in Golden Gate Park. Queer poetry will be read throughout the day in a simulated Tel Aviv beach café, with snacks and music to boot.

It all takes place this Sunday, June 7, from noon to 6 p.m. at Sharon Meadow in Golden Gate Park. Sharon Meadow is at the east end of the park, north of Kezar Stadium and south of John F. Kennedy Drive.

The café is part of the larger "Israel in the Park," a 50th birthday party for the Jewish State of Israel. The celebration is sponsored by several Bay Area Jewish community groups. Guests will wander through cultural and his-

torical sites, medieval streets, open-air cafés and a small-scale Western Wall, as the park is transformed into a miniature map of Israel.

Sha'ar Zahav's "Café Ga'ay" is modeled after a conglomeration of cafés in Tel Aviv where the gay community gathers. Renee Bauer, program director for Sha'ar Zahav, said the Hebrew word "ga'ay" means "pride."

Decorated by Sha'ar Zahav's bar/bat mitzvah class, under the direction of Bauer and educator David Shneer, the café will be surrounded by beach scenes and an Israeli flag with a rainbow.

The café will feature Israeli same-sex love poetry and other queer poetry, Bauer said. Sha'ar Zahav members will read the contemporary and medieval poetry both in English and Hebrew. Bauer said the café will also en-

courage participation by visitors.

"People are invited to take copies of the poems to decorate and display in the café, or they can take a blank sheet to write their own poems," Bauer said.

The café will also have snacks and music playing throughout the day.

Other attractions at "Israel in the Park" will include food demonstrations of middle-eastern delicacies, artists, Jewish organizations and activities for all ages.

Visitors can leave messages on the miniature Western Wall, similar to traditional custom in Jerusalem. Students from affiliated Bay Area day schools have created many of the sets and will play the roles of historic public figures.

Numerous live performances are headlined by one of Israel's top rock stars, Rami Kleinstein. Parents Choice award-winning singer/composer Craig Taubman will also perform on the main stage. Other performances will feature jugglers, storytellers, Klezmer and Mizrahi music, ska, hip hop, and folk dancing. ▼

Cayman Island 'phobes to visit SF

by Mike Salinas

Even liberal San Francisco has a limit to its tolerance. According to Supervisor Tom Ammiano, the city that is world-famous for providing refuge to the oppressed is not terribly thrilled to host bigots from the Cayman Islands.

Ammiano said he may even arrive at a meeting of tourism officials from the small Caribbean nation, scheduled for 1 p.m. this Wednesday, June 10 at the Grand Hyatt on Union Square, to present a proclamation "trashing the shit out of them."

The supervisor's action, if he decides to carry through on his threat, would be in response to past Cayman mistreatment of gays and lesbians. In December, the island nation denied docking privileges to the Norwegian Cruise Line's Leeward, a cruise liner with some 900 gay tourists that was scheduled to dock at Grand Cayman for a one-day stopover February 1.

The Cayman minister of tourism, with the ironic name of Thomas Jefferson, wrote charter organizer Atlantis Events that "careful research and prior experience has led us to conclude that we cannot count on this group to uphold the standards of appropriate behavior expected of visitors." When stories about the refusal prompted reports in the international media, and even a complaint from the U.S. State Department, Jefferson and the government rebuffed all attempts to gain an apology. Some far right American evangelists have even capitalized on the Cayman bigotry, by packaging cruises to the islands for fundamentalist Christians.

Last week, Cayman Island Tourism Department Regional Sales Manager Connie Leong quietly announced she would hold the meeting in San Francisco on Wednesday to drum up business, although presumably not among the Bay Area's large gay community. But the meeting will not go as smoothly as Leong might hope,

if Ammiano and some other community activists have their way.

When Jeff Sheehy, former president of the Harvey Milk Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Democratic Club, learned of the planned meeting, he said, "I can't believe the audacity. We should meet them at the airport and turn them away."

Ammiano won't do that, but he told the B.A.R. he is considering issuing a proclamation condemning the island nation and its tourism industry. He pointed out that the Caymans have a long history of being unfriendly to gay tourists, including one memorable 1987 cruise, for which he had been hired as an entertainer.

"They didn't turn us away, but they made us very uncomfortable," he said. News reports of the time reported that the Cayman parliament broke session early to round up gay passengers and shoot them back on board.

"I wept," Ammiano laughed. "I had to go calm myself in my fabulous luxurious roomy stateroom." Sheehy said that even if the officials are not met by an organized community expression of outrage, they still might be discomfited.

"I've slept with people at the Grand Hyatt," he said. "Who there is going to serve anybody from the Caymans?" ▼

The luncheon will be held Wednesday at the Grand Hyatt at 345 Stockton Street. Those who cannot attend may write Thomas C. Jefferson, the Minister of Tourism, Commerce, and Transportation, at the Government Administration Building, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands, or call (345) 949-0623, fax (345) 949-4053, or e-mail cscayman@candw.ky

A note to our readers

Columnist Mister Marcus is taking this week off due to illness. We hope and expect to have him back in these pages next week.



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Pak-Indus 8'4" x 10'8"	3,570	2,856
Indo-Heriz 9'1" x 12'	3,890	2,424
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Chinese-150L 6' x 9'	1,600	1,280
Indo-Gabeh 8'5" x 11'6"	1,450	1,160
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Indo-Mashad 10' x 13'5"	3,956	3,188
Afghan-Modhi 8'10" x 13'7"	4,700	3,760
Pak-Jalidar 12'5" x 17'8"	4,700	3,760
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Indo-Mir 2'9" x 14'10"	540	408
Indo-Kashan 2'8" x 11'6"	830	664
Indo-Gabeh 2'8" x 10'	475	380
Squares		
Pak-Bokhara 6'4" x 6'8"	1,350	1,080
Turkish-Indigo 6'2" x 6'6"	1,050	840
Indo-Kashan 7'11" x 8'3"	1,175	940
Rounds		
Indo-Oushak 2'6" D	85	76
Chinese-90L 6" D	540	432
Indo-Gabeh 8'2" D	998	798

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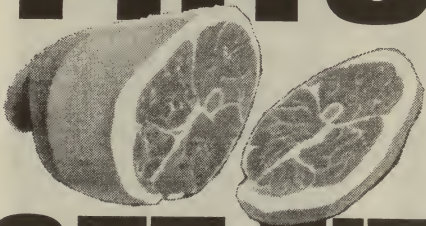


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Protesters confront Castro merchants on panhandling issue

by Mark Mardon

With shouts through a bullhorn of "stop the war on the poor," some two-dozen activists demonstrated last Saturday afternoon in front of Hot Cookie on Castro Street.

The protesters, including members of ACT UP/San Francisco, Food Not Bombs, the Coalition on Homelessness, and neighborhood panhandlers, denounced Hot Cookie owner Dan Glazer for conceiving the "Create Change, Don't Hand It Out" posters that now adorn many shop windows in the increasingly gentrified Castro commercial district.

The posters, designed to discourage donations to panhandlers, were authorized by the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro (MUMC) and produced by its Community Pride and Revitalization (CPR) committee, headed by Jeff Ward, manager of Does Your Father Know.

Ward, Glazer, and MUMC President Patrick Batt stood near the door of Hot Cookie, holding up the CPR signs and urging

passersby to ignore the protesters and support Hot Cookie.

Ward and Batt reiterated their stance that their campaign is not aimed at those who are truly homeless, but at outsiders who come to the Castro to panhandle, hassling people in the process.

Cookie sales were brisk inside Glazer's store, a fact he attributed to the increased attention the protesters gave to his establishment: "It shows people support our campaign."

But plenty of people were accepting the free homemade, vegan, chocolate-chip cookies being handed out in front of the store by Heather Whitney of Food Not Bombs. She and other protesters kept chanting, "free cookies are better than Hot Cookies."

"The queer community needs to respond to homelessness with compassion," said Michael Bellefountaine of ACT UP/San Francisco. "I love the Castro and don't want to give gay merchants a hard time, but this campaign shows the merchants' misprioritization of issues. They're attacking homeless people instead of AIDS. They have a responsibility to help poor

people with AIDS."

Bellefountaine said he and others from ACT UP/SF had spent the early afternoon handing out \$5 and \$10 bills to homeless people in the Castro.

"We want solutions, not persecutions," said Whirlwind Dreamer, a self-described homeless person and activist with Homes Not Jails. "Alienating the homeless in the Castro is as hypocritical as those who stereotyped and kept gays and lesbians out of their neighborhoods."

Sean also wondered why it's okay for gay guys to come to the Castro to cruise, but it isn't okay for panhandlers to come asking for spare change.

Todd Swindell of ACT UP/SF said the boycott of Hot Cookie will continue "until the merchants remove the signs." He also wants MUMC to "end the ghettoized attitude toward homelessness," adding the merchants could help more by promoting job training and substance abuse treatment on demand.

"What MUMC is doing to panhandlers is what straight people do to queer people every day," said Swindell. ▼

Gays, lesbians explore opposite sex cultures

by Liz Highleyman

The Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco will sponsor a one-day conference this Saturday, June 6 to discuss how gay men and lesbians view and relate to each other's sexualities and sexual cultures. The forum will feature talks, panel discussions, and workshop sessions.

The conference, entitled "Opposite Sex: Gay Men on Lesbians, Lesbians on Gay Men," will feature speakers Eric Rofes, Sara Miles, the Reverend Jim Mitulski, and the Reverend Penny Nixon. Rofes and Miles edited a recently released anthology of the same title, which grew out of their experiences moderating discussions on the topic at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's annual Creating Change conference.

Among the issues to be addressed on Saturday include the differences between gay men's and lesbians' sexual practices, sexual communities, and relationship patterns, and the role of sex in mixed gay/lesbian communities. The conference comes in the wake

of recent community debates surrounding sex clubs, pornographic images in the public sphere, and gay male sexual culture as it relates to HIV prevention.

The free conference will be held from 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. at MCC-SF, 150 Eureka Street. For more information call (415) 863-4434. ▼

Cops seek witnesses to Walnut Creek bash

by Terrance Boykin

Police are still investigating a May 15 incident in Walnut Creek involving the bashing of five youths near the entrance of Just Rewards. As reported in the B.A.R. on May 21, eight young men parked in a Honda and a BMW began harassing customers in the parking lot of the popular night club, which led to the arrest of two teenage males in downtown Walnut Creek.

Lieutenant Ron Frasier of the Walnut Creek police department told the B.A.R., "We're still interviewing witnesses and suspects, in order to get the full story. There were allegedly five youths assault-

ed that night, but only two of them stuck around to press charges." Police have found that only one of the young men in the primary arrest was involved in the physical assault, which could lead to serious charges. The other young teen is accused of disturbing the peace, due to the comments he made at the scene.

Frasier said "any additional information would greatly help this investigation. If there were other victims involved or witnesses to the incident, we could get a clearer picture of what happened if they would contact the department."

Anyone with information is asked to contact Frasier of the Walnut Creek Police Department at (925) 943-5874. ▼

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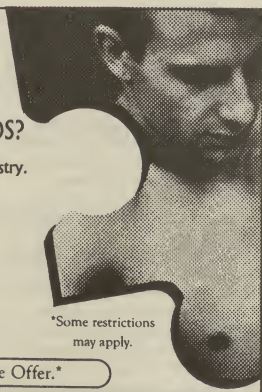
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Volunteers from A Different Light Bookstore serve dinner every Friday at MCC's Simply Supper program.

City funds Castro panhandling measures

by Cynthia Laird

An infusion of city funds is expected to help expand the Simply Supper program for the poor at Metropolitan Community Church San Francisco (MCC-SF). The city will also hire an outreach worker to help respond to the Castro's homeless and panhandler problems, which have become a lightning rod for controversy as some residents oppose area merchants' efforts to deter people from giving change to people on the streets. [See related article, facing page.]

The Board of Supervisors Finance Committee approved a grant for \$15,000 on May 27, said Terry Hill, homeless coordinator at the Mayor's Office on Homelessness. The money will be used by MCC-SF to expand the Simply Supper program currently feeding between 40 and 70 people three days a week.

The second component of the city's response will be the hiring of an outreach worker through the Department of Human Services (DHS). The worker will serve as the point person for several high impact areas, including the Castro, said Maggie Donahue, director of housing and homeless programs for DHS.

Both announcements are in response to the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro (MUMC) and others in the community who have been meeting with officials in recent months.

Reverend Jim Mitulski, pastor at MCC-SF, said the city grant will enable Simply Supper to expand, and he hopes the program can be replicated somewhere else in the city where there is a need. Currently, the program serves food to people in need two nights a week at the Castro area church. One night a week, volunteers take food to one of the city's needle exchange sites. The program utilizes volunteers from the church and A Different Light Bookstore.

"Right away, we'd like to have an additional day in the Castro, so that we're feeding people every other day," Mitulski told the B.A.R. He downplayed the recent controversy in the neighborhood. "Controversies come and go, but homeless people continue. The sign thing—I hope it's fading."

Hill and Mitulski pointed out the Simply Supper program

serves several people who do have housing but are living on the verge of homelessness.

"If we can keep people housed, that's good," said Mitulski.

Hill said he, Supervisor Tom Ammann, and Bevan Dufty, with the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services, toured Simply Supper as part of the grant review process and came away impressed with the program.

"We would love to see it expand to seven days a week. They don't turn folks away," Hill told the B.A.R.

A volume of pros

MUMC President Patrick Batt told the B.A.R. that he worked with city officials to help get the outreach worker and said that, combined with the grant for Simply Supper, are good first steps to address the homeless issue. He maintained, however, that MUMC's complaint is with aggressive "professional panhandlers," and that was why the flyer was created.

"We don't have a solution for the homeless," he said.

Defined as people who come from other parts of the city and often aggressively ask for change in front of businesses, the panhandlers sometimes leave to buy drugs with the money they've collected from tourists, residents, and others.

Batt said professional panhandlers drive customers away and contribute to an overall decline of the neighborhood. It was an attempt to make people aware of the professional panhandlers that led to creation of the "Create Change" flyer. Initially, the flyers went up in 85 percent of the businesses, but with opponents tearing them down, that figure has now dropped to about 65 percent, he said.

"Only a handful of merchants decided to take them down on their own," he told the B.A.R. "We are now suggesting to merchants that they tape them to windows." One business, Walgreens, has them inside display cases and one, Cala Foods, even had the flyer enlarged, he added.

Donahue said her office is in the process of interviewing candidates for the outreach worker, and the position is already in the city budget. "The person will work a designated number of hours per week in the Castro and meet with

merchants and residents," she said, adding the worker will get to know the "professionals."

"We have found it to be effective," Donahue said of outreach workers. "I think it will allay they're concerns the city's not responding." ▼

For information or to volunteer at the Simply Supper program, call David Grant at MCC-SF at (415) 865-2748.

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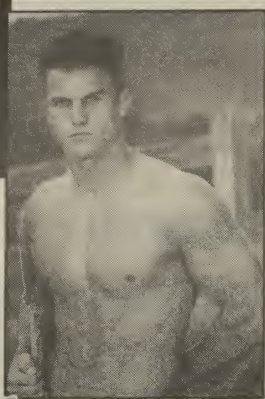


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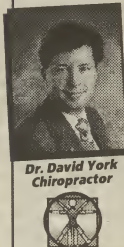
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OPEN FORUM

Primary education

It's doubtful that anyone in California woke up Wednesday completely overjoyed by the results of Tuesday's election. Some terrible measures went down to defeat – most notably, Proposition 226 and its attempt to muzzle working people – while some terrible measures were passed: Supervisor Leland Yee's xenophobic Proposition I was one particularly appalling example. (All through the campaign he insisted his opponents on this issue were hysterics, all because we feared giant signs in the windows of AIDS housing would stir up attacks against PWAs. He as much as gave his solemn word that no such attacks would occur. We'll remember, and remind him if necessary.) The same goes for more progressive measures: some failed and some passed.

But however one feels about the mixed results, we can find more than a few reasons to celebrate. First, we can rejoice that the primary (with its negative onslaught) is over, and even though that just means we're moving into a general election with its negative onslaught, at least that means we're less likely to see friends saying things about each other that they will surely regret later. Next, we can rejoice that those candidates who thought that getting the most votes merely involved spending the most money were proved (almost universally) wrong.

Even better, many races across America demonstrated that whatever fascination our citizens may have had with far right wing candidates is apparently waning. Last month Nebraska's relentlessly anti-gay Jon Christensen went down in flames, which Tuesday's results showed was not an aberration. The most encouraging result may have been in Alabama, where Ralph Reed (formerly of the Christian Coalition) ran the reelection campaign of Governor Fob James. As could be expected of any Reed client, James was pathetically anachronistic in expressing his vision of America and who lived up to his weird far right criteria. And although James didn't lose outright Tuesday, he did fail to get a clear majority and so will be forced into a runoff for the GOP nomination, against a much more politically moderate busi-

nessperson. It's unlikely Reed will (or could) change the way James campaigns, so it remains to see whether far right fanaticism can win in a one-on-one election.

Elsewhere, other homophobes may have held some ground (Bob Dornan got the GOP nod in Orange County, for instance) but it doesn't look as they gained any territory. Now we have a reason to break out that bottle of Dom Perignon we've been keeping under wraps – but after that we're going right back to work, because we know sure as hell the churchers will.

It's too early to declare victory for the forces of goodness and equality. It probably won't ever be time for that; nothing is ever that simple in the American political process. But we can take heart and renew our commitment to using that political process to

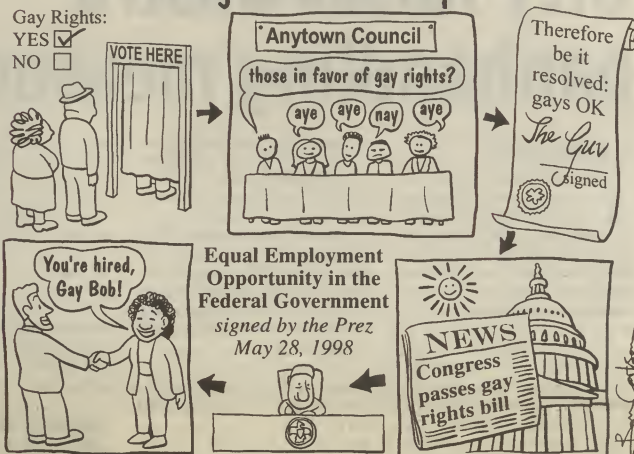
protect our way of life for future generations.

We hope those younger gays and lesbians who are only now watching to see what voting is all about are more encouraged than dismayed about this election. They should be aware that politics is most definitely not a movie: it doesn't get wrapped up with a dénouement within two hours. Sometimes it takes years, as seems to be the case in Rhode Island, where the sodomy law is on the brink of collapse. Then there's the example of Clinton's executive order forbidding anti-gay discrimination in the federal government (except in the military, of course). That is what voters for Clinton got when they reelected him two years ago. It was hardly instant gratification, but we all learn as we grow older that it isn't enough to just get an election; maintaining an election is what matters. ▼



Editorial

Voting is the first step . . .



Neutrality never helps victims

by Grant F. Peterson

The San Leandro school board at a meeting Tuesday, May 12, voted unanimously to uphold Superintendent Tom Himmelberg's findings in support of parents who complained that Karl Debro's classroom conduct was unprofessional, that he misused class time, and that he singled out students whose parents disagreed with him.

There is no question that Mr. Debro is guilty, just as numerous others in our nation's history have been guilty for having defended the down-trodden and stood up to an indifferent power structure that cares little about protecting the powerless, whose views and actions do not fit the expected subservient mold.

But guilty of what? Mr. Debro spent one class period discussing a school board meeting. During two additional class periods he permitted discussion about the harassment of two students and a school-wide survey addressing institutional effects of racism. Total time elapsed: 140 minutes. None of the above "infractions" is uncommon where sound teaching is taking place; in fact, numerous other teachers at San Leandro High School engaged in similar discussions, but only Mr. Debro was singled out for reprisal.

Yes, Mr. Debro is definitely guilty. I find him guilty of having the courage to speak out in defense of a lesbian teacher whose major sin was being honest regarding who she is, and this she did after having first discussed and gotten approval from the administration.

And no one can deny that Mr. Debro is guilty of having decied the abuse heaped on two lesbian students by both adults and other students. Mr. Debro made the unforgivable mistake of opening his classroom to

discussion about the importance of respecting all students and providing students in his class a forum to explore the elements of oppression against those who may be different.

Mr. Debro's guilt is compounded by having actually spoken to his class on these issues after parents said they didn't want their children to be present when homosexuality was discussed. Now, were Mr. Debro speaking about sexual behavior, whether it be homosexual or heterosexual, every parent should be outraged, not just the complainants, but no one has suggested that this was the thesis of Mr. Debro's remarks.

And what were the superintendent and the school board doing and saying while Mr. Debro was calling for respect and understanding for those who did not fit the mold of the majority? In a word, nothing. For six months community members pleaded with their elected officials to speak out against intolerance and to protect students and staff from the bigotry and hatred that was being directed at them. The response of the superintendent and board? Platitudes, assurances given that policies were in place and they needed only to be followed. Apart from that, silence. Policies are useless if not enforced, a concept seemingly lost on the San Leandro board and superintendent.

It was Mr. Debro who had the audacity to fill the void created by the elected officials and superintendent. Those in a position to make changes wallowed in their own silence and inaction.

And what were the consequences of this silence and inaction? A teacher who refused to lie about who she was felt forced to leave because she wasn't safe. Two students were

forced to leave because they feared for their safety. Mr. Debro was disciplined by the superintendent and board for promoting liberty and justice for all.

Is Mr. Debro really the guilty party? I would submit that Mr. Debro is guilty of having taken actions the superintendent and board should have taken. Had they met their responsibility for enforcing their policies of justice of which they are so proud, Mr. Debro might not have felt the need to speak out against injustice, hate, and bigotry. If they genuinely cared about all of San Leandro's students, two young lesbians would not be deprived of the education in a comprehensive high school, something they rightly deserve.

Yes, Mr. Debro is guilty, but it looks to me as though it's a bum rap and he's the fall guy.

Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel, in a poignant statement, remarked, "I swear never to be silent whenever and wherever human lives endure suffering and humiliation. We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented. Sometimes we must interfere when human lives are endangered. When human dignity is in jeopardy, that place, at that moment, must become the center of the universe."

I applaud Karl Debro's courage and his contribution to justice for all. We should all aspire to be so guilty. ▼

The author is co-chair of the GLSEN/San Francisco Bay Area Chapter and a member of the board of directors of Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network (GLSEN) National.

Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Not gay enough?

I am a candidate for the Democratic Central Committee in the 13th Assembly district. I am also gay, and for most of my life have proudly considered myself so. My friends, coworkers and associates also think of me as gay. I've done all the right things. I go to gay bars and clubs. I participate in the Gay Pride Parade every year. I spent a lot of time working on the Gay Community Center. I kiss and have sex with men (of which I am one). And yes, I have been known to put on a dress occasionally. That's why I was so surprised to find out that, according to the [May 28] "election special" in the B.A.R., I am no longer gay (or "queer," as the case may be). Have I done something wrong? Maybe you know something I don't. OK, so I'm not involved in theatre, I don't do flower arranging and I don't have limp wrists. But I thought those stereotypes were long gone. Yes, as a teenager and young adult, when life in a conservative Midwestern community dictated that I be closeted, I would not have been surprised or offended to be called straight. But here in San Francisco, where I take pride in, and am open about my gayness, I am perplexed and disturbed about my exclusion from the community by the B.A.R. So if you would, please let me know how I can be considered "gay." I'd like to be part of the club too.

Robin F. Levitt
(Gay) Candidate for DCCC, 13th AD
San Francisco

[We apologize to Mr. Levitt and to David Carlson, both of whom were inadvertently omitted, and to Supervisor Leslie Katz, who was in Europe during the compilation process.]

Panhandlers' rights

The liberal milieu that characterizes San Francisco as a "pie" with many slices, namely gay rights, women's rights, abortion rights, hookers' rights, aliens' rights, criminals' rights - and panhandlers' rights. You can't have the pie without all the slices - the many facets of liberalism. I'd really like to have the right to walk down the street without being accosted by professional bums - er, "homeless." But as a category, working taxpayers citizens, whether gay or straight, are not a part of the pie, and do not have that right. And neither do the Castro Street merchants. It's just a fact of life, like it or not. If we're gonna have gay rights as a category, then we've got to have panhandlers' rights too. Get used to it.

P.S. - There is a major difference between the legitimately needy who find themselves on the street, and the professional bums many of whom are not even homeless, for whom the Castro is 'easy turf' because of its policy of compassion and tolerance.

Bill Sheppard
San Francisco

Money grubbing Castro merchants

MUMC's President, Patrick Batt, when asked about his comprehensive plan to help alleviate the pressures on the homeless, and end professional aggressive panhandling in the Castro was quoted in the national publication *Newsweek* as saying, "I don't know, and I don't care."

Thank you Patrick!

Thanks a lot for embarrassing gay merchants, like myself, in a national publication. Thanks for having your big mouth loose, it's rhetoric of draconian and cavalier views of human rights presented to the nation, as an example of Castro and Upper Market merchant's attitudes. Really, I can't thank you enough for showing the nation (who we are currently pleading with for the right to live with dignity) that we, as money grubbing, capitalistic, self-centered lords of the Gay Mecca, don't give a shit about anybody or anything else but money. Oh yes, thank you for insuring that those not rich enough to pay the admission price to a good life are thrown out as human refuse. Are you voting "yes" on prop. E? That will certainly help make sure only those rich enough to meet your lofty standards get to live here. Thank you, Reagan would be proud.

Oh, by the way, could you get rid of all the Mexicans? And maybe those damn pesky dykes who have the gall to think they can wave their exposed breasts at us and have equal rights with men? (They have those vaginas we faggots loathe and fear so much.)

Thank you for your well thought words of wisdom. Thank you for your comprehensive, and intelligent solution to exclude every undesirable that you, an embittered, jaded, megalomaniac, white man, deem unworthy of human rights.

OK, so subtlety isn't my strong suit, but to quote Divine from the film *Pink Flamingos*: "You have been accused of assholeism, and the penalty is death."

You wanna know what I really think of you, your attitudes, and your little bon mot in *Newsweek*? Pull my finger.

James Danforth
San Francisco

'Spare' change? No.

This is in response to Reverend Robert Cromey's letter of May 21, 1998, "Change is in order." With all respects to Fr. Cromey, I beg to differ with him on the problem of panhandlers in the Castro. I frequent the Castro and have found them to be a problem. They come there because they feel that the gays are an "easy touch." They play upon the emotions for sympathy, oftentimes with pets, plus they have the money to smoke cigarettes. I've even been threatened for the price of 25 cents which I cannot spare because I have been on disability for the past fifteen years. In warm weather, I've seen some males half naked hustling for money, a ploy to attract the attention of gays there. We don't see them in the richer areas of the City Nob Hill and Pacific Heights areas because they wouldn't last there. It's great to have a Christian ideal of charity to the "poor" when one is not confronted with this problem on a personal level. It is detrimental to the Castro businesses. Fr. Cromey should take his collar off sometimes and experience it on his own.

Richard A. Daller
San Francisco

Money disempowers

Giving money directly to panhandlers doesn't help them, it hurts them.

I was appalled at the half-truths put forward by the Reverend Warren Cromey in his letter. The signs on Castro Street do ask people not to give money directly to panhandlers. However, Cromey omitted the crucial part of the signs' request: that instead people donate their time and money to services for the needy. Let's get real: since nourishing food is available free all over the city, panhandlers don't need street donations to buy food, as they claim. So what are they using the money for? Recently I saw an elderly woman give a \$20 bill to

two panhandlers at Castro and Market. From her appearance, it seemed clear that this gift represented considerable sacrifice on her part. I continued down Castro to Walgreen's; when I got into the checkout line, the two panhandlers were in front of me. They bought hand-held video poker and blackjack games, and paid with a \$20 bill. I couldn't help wondering if the woman who had given them the twenty had enough to eat herself that night. Panhandling is a dead-end enterprise. If people support themselves by begging on the street, that's where they're stuck. There are many agencies that provide food, shelter, counseling, help overcoming substance abuse, and job training. Only through willingness to learn to support themselves can panhandlers become former panhandlers and gain the self-respect they deserve as human beings. When they stay on the street, panhandlers remain downtrodden, allowing some people to feel charitable by tossing them a quarter now and then. Monetary handouts disempower panhandlers. I've done volunteer work in this city for 24 years; the only thing that really works is a hand up.

John Gildersleeve
San Francisco

Survival is in order

I have been following the controversy regarding panhandling in the Castro for several months. Climaxed by reading the letters from Robert Warren Cromey of Trinity Episcopal Church and Peter Goldbetz, let me recommend that both gentlemen stop walking through the area with benign smiles fixed firmly on their faces for all the disadvantaged and criticizing the merchants in the area and that they do something about the problem. For example find a way to feed those who beg because they are hungry, provide shelter for those who must sleep in the streets, provide rest room facilities for those who resort to defecating and urinating in doorways because they have no alternative. Perhaps they could petition Mayor Brown to install some like the ones down at Market & Powell, though that would mean that someone would have to provide quarters for the hapless to get into the pissors (I'm sure you could get some of the merchants to contribute if only in self defense). And for those who "do not have a strong work ethic" as cited by Mr. Goldbetz, perhaps he could arrange outings for them with food and drink and diversions to keep them happy and entertained so that they won't even have to make the effort to ask for spare change. Living and owning a business in a similar neighborhood and facing many similar situation I can sympathize with the merchants, the residents and the tourists that frequent the Castro. I also question the compassion of the two gentlemen above who criticize, condemn and in the case of the Rev. Cromey threaten to boycott businesses that protest the behavior of the panhandler and protect themselves and their property. And how about concern for their survival? Because that is what it is, not greed or lack of feeling for others, but survival.

Karl Cassini
San Francisco

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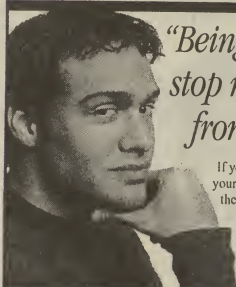
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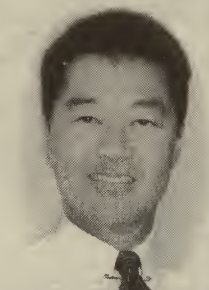


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The homophobic Marines are coming!

Hide your kids! One if by land, two if by sea... We've been warned. The war zones of the future will be ground-zero any urban-area USA. In order to keep the world free for free-market colonization (compulsory capitalism) and to be prepared for the problems associated with the civilian battleground, the Marines are planning to infiltrate our communities for target practice. Col. Peck sat before the U.S. Congress during the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" hearings, admitting he feared that homophobia in the military placed his gay son, and ostensibly other homosexuals or those mistaken to be gay, at risk of personal attack. We may want to make sure that Commander In-Chief Clinton understands that loose troops within our civilian neighborhoods should not be armed with live munitions, not until they have been certified and have successfully completed a sexual harassment and diversity sensitivity training program, which presents homosexuality in a professionally acceptable, realistic, and positive light. The increases in the number of homosexuality-related discharges from the military subsequent to "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (or "Lie and Hide"), suggests that many commanders have not gotten the message or are ignoring it as a personal vendetta against the president.

Had Clinton stood up to General Powell and his field commanders, rather than permitting them to disparage their commander-in-chief, he would have garnered more respect, and command compliance and any new policy would have improved. It's not too late for the president and Defense Secretary Cohen to take the minimum necessary steps to make sure that all military troops, especially old-school commanders, are trained in professionally certified sexual and diversity awareness classes to protect the public from deeply entrenched and institutionalized homophobia and sexism throughout the military, especially in the Marines. Homophobia is not a prerequisite to national security. It may be a deterrent to it in diverse civilian social milieus, where military troops may need to be deployed here or abroad.

Rand Knox
San Jose

E is for exception

Is your endorsement of Proposition E [May 28] a typo or a sell-out? You state the arguments fairly well in your article by Mark Mardon and yet you still endorse this sham of a proposition which claims to be a gay and AIDS rights issue. You don't even bother to address the controversy in your endorsement. Maybe the Gay and Lesbian Housing Alliance would be willing to donate tents to all the people evicted when their apartments are converted to condos. I'd like to know what other "progressive gay and lesbian issues" Jean-Paul Samaha has worked on. Harvey Milk is probably rolling over in his grave! I've lost respect for the B.A.R. over this.

Peter G. Veilleux
San Francisco

[Wow, you're a tough audience: you disagree with one endorsement out of two dozen, and you've lost respect for us - even after we ran the story to which you refer and ran the line "Whether you agree with these suggestions or not, vote." It is a difference of opinion, nothing more or less sinister. We will see if owner move-in evictions actually increase, as has been predicted, now that Proposition E has been defeated. For everyone's sake, we hope not, but we fear it might happen.]

Read communists

Just a note to thank the B.A.R. for running the great photo and charming caption from the *Revolution, She Wrote* book party Radical Women, hosted on May Day at Modern Times. We really appreciate you sending Rick Gerharter to take the picture, and also appreciate your support. The event was great, and made even better by your coverage - intrepid RW founder and lifelong Civil Rights pioneer Clara Fraser would have loved the witty "Revolution She Read" header!

Toni Mendicino
Radical Women
San Francisco

Above-ground supervisor

I congratulate you on your informative article on Keith Haring, "Underground superstar," in the May 14 issue.

I took the initiative and introduced a resolution to the Board of Supervisors at the May 11 session. This resolution asked the Arts Commission to explore purchasing Keith Haring artwork for permanent display in San Francisco.

I eagerly await their report and hope that we can permanently have the art of such a prominent queer artist.

Tom Ammiano
Member, Board of Supervisors
San Francisco

Another God-damned letter from the east

It's really tragic when a newspaper resorts to the level of snipping as has been done in your letters page. I refer to comments made to readers John Robinson and later, Scott Hanson.

Your comments that if you don't live here bug off is rude and misses the point entirely.

The question was raised of why is God so downed in the Castro, and it's a good one.

We know God has nothing to do with Jerry Falwell, Anita Bryant, or AIDS. It sickens me that guys will have unsafe sex, get sick, and blame God.

If the writers were from the Castro, would the response [sic] be the same?

Melanie Williams
Ocean City, MD

[Since you asked, yes. We would remind them that what Robinson's original letter complained about was the sight of naked toys in a shop window, and we would point out that there are many worse things in the world that need immediate attention. Most Castro readers already know that, however - just as they know that "Mailstrom" is not vanity press; just because you manage to get pen to paper does not guarantee publication, or publication without comment. If that's what you're after, buy an ad.

And since we are commenting, we think your comment about guys and unsafe sex is disgusting and homophobic. Maybe it passes for compassion in Maryland, but not here.]

Nyuk to nipples

Well, the Carnival Parade has passed. So many bare breasts I am thinking of cherry pie. We will get the usual remarks about the Gay Parade. I think we should have more nuances, sausages and swinging salamis. Have you looked at the nipple part of a breast lately? That picture of Marilyn Monroe on the beach. She looks as if a baby crocodile was chomping on them. Okay, already, breasts can be interesting to see but the nipple parts can be discomfiting. Power to the penis. Nyuk to the nipples. Dykes on Bikes are the exception. Healthy looking. No red smudges on orange sized blobs. What do they do so theirs are not all chewed looking?

Chuck Kennedy
San Francisco

In defense of queer

I recently attended a public forum at my local Gay & Lesbian Community Center on the issue of marriage and what it means to our communities. During the public comment and question section, a person stood up and said, "Let's not use 'queer.' Let's not use any term that alienates us from those who would support us, or confuse the issue."

It seems that "queer," a term reclaimed by our communities in the early '90s, is no longer considered an "appropriate" dinner guest to the table of our assimilation. He finished off by saying, "our gay community." This got me thinking: Did we forget the last 25 years of our his/herstory? The battles that women fought to be included in the boys' club that was the "gay community." Where grudgingly, lesbian as a term was added to gay to acknowledge the role of women, and where issues such as reproductive freedom were finally deemed an important part of our struggle for human rights? Where in the early '90s, the bisexual and transgender communities had to struggle to even be considered to be part of "us." Where pitched battles were fought over whether even their own names for their communities would be included. Where they were told they could march, but not be named.

In our rush to gain acceptance (but not equality), some communities aren't yet even acknowledged officially at all, such as other sexual minorities like the SM/fetish communities or intersexuals, who without their consent are forced into the gender binary we call male/female. Can we really boil it all down to that for us to gain allies, we must jettison the diversity that is the reality of our community? Can we erase the last 25 years and just go back to the term "gay?" With that logic, why not go back to the previous attempt at relating to the "mainstream," and use "homophile?" Can't we keep moving forward instead of going back? Can't we instead celebrate the diversity that makes up our lives including our chosen families that don't always "fit" the traditional monogamous model. Where we truly include the majority of people in this world, people of color. Where youth and seniors are not relegated to either being silenced or made invisible? If we need an umbrella for us all, why not queer? Let's not be afraid of ourselves. We should welcome support from outside of our communities. But let's not do the job of those who oppose our very right to exist. Let us name ourselves and speak with our own voices.

I am a proud queer, in solidarity with all my brothers and sisters around the world, and I will be accepted as what I am, not who someone else wants me to be.

Jesse Heiwa
New York, NY

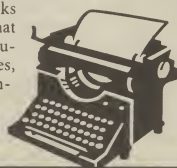
POLITICS

Gray matters and a bounced Checchi

by Wayne Friday

If Lieutenant Governor **Gray Davis** does become governor in November, he will become the first person to have gone from that office to the governor's chair in 45 years. In 1953, then-Lieutenant Governor **Goodwin Knight**, a Republican, was elevated to the post when then Governor **Earl Warren** accepted an appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court by President **Dwight Eisenhower**.

Bounced Checchi: If Tuesday's primary accomplished anything, it might be to stop megamillionaires from thinking they can buy any election they want with an open checkbook. **Al Checchi's** disastrous showing in the Democratic primary came despite his dropping a whopping \$35 million. The public never knew much more about the guy other than he campaigns dirty, has a pasted-in headline that would embarrass a Ken doll, has money to burn, and his wife speaks Spanish. Interesting that of the Democratic gubernatorial candidates, the only non-millionaire finished first. Gray Davis confounded all the prognosticators by pulling this victory out of his hat.



Our Man Friday

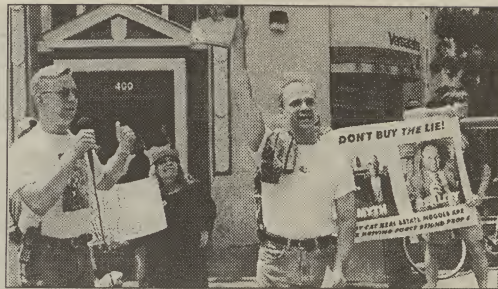
Political problem ahead for archconservative Republican **Dan Lungren** in November! Exit polls indicate that nearly one-third of all GOP women voted for one of the three Democratic gubernatorial candidates June 2. The Catholic Lungren's rigid anti-abortion stance is thought to be responsible for his poor showing with this segment of his party.

The buzz around City Hall is that the political powers that be (i.e., **Willie Brown**, **John Burton**, etc.) have big plans to make Rep. **Nancy Pelosi** our next mayor after Da Mayor has completed his second term (assuming, of course, there is a second term for His Williness). Well, permit me to broadcast it loud and clear that I think an excellent choice for SF's next mayor would be Assemblyperson **Carole Migden**. The lady is tough, dedicated, loyal, and one of the hardest workers around.

Don't forget that tonight (Thursday, June 4) is the 60th birthday party extravaganza for **Harry Britt** at Delancey Street, 600 Embarcadero Street. (\$50, 6-8 p.m.). All the evening's proceeds go to fight the Christian Coalition's anti-gay ballot measure in Oregon. Yep, they're at it again in the Beaver State!

President **William Jefferson Clinton** will appear at an afternoon reception/fundraiser next Friday, June 12, at the Fairmont to benefit Senator **Barbara Boxer's** re-election campaign. The not-inexpensive (\$250) bash kicks off at 4 p.m.; call 957-3688 for more information.

When First Lady **Hillary Rodham Clinton** helped Senator **Barbara Boxer** raise nearly \$200,000 at that rally last week at the Fairmont, actor **Sean Penn**, an avid Boxer supporter, was also on hand. Penn, however, went practically unnoticed standing quietly in the crowd.



Just say no way: Queers Against Prop. E staged a May 30 Castro rally that attracted over 300 people, including a gay male couple (above) targeted in a campaign flier by the Yes on E forces.

Massachusetts Representative **Barney Frank**, one of our wittier public officials, was spotted dining with friends last weekend at the Castro's popular Tin Pan restaurant after speaking at a gay and lesbian rally in the city.

Wendy Paskin Jordan and **Art Torres** have become partners in a new consulting firm, **Jordan & Torres**. The two already have lined up a number of big-name clients, but they won't be doing political consulting.

Tabloid titillation: There I was in Safeway's checkout line waiting for them to ring up my Maalox

when I noticed the lady in front of me was reading a story in the current edition of the *Globe* entitled "**Don Johnson Stole His Gal**." The headline, as you may have guessed, referred to the well-tanned *Nash Bridges* star "stealing" young socialite **Kelley Phleger** from our very own rich and handsome supervisor, **Gavin Newsom**. Seems the perfidious Phleger abandoned our hunky hero after Newsom had gone out and bought his young love a "\$1.5 million luxurious love nest passion palace." Talk about ingratitude! Now, according to *Chron* columnist and *Herb Caen* wannabe **Scott Ostler**, "Gavin is fuming." See, folks, the old chestnut is true: Money can't buy happiness. However, it certainly does ease the pain. Rest assured that Gorgeous Gavin won't face too many obstacles on the rebound path to bliss.

When megastar **Sharon Stone** hosted the auction at the Cannes Film Festival recently to aid the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR), it was not one of the Solid Gold dancers but her own husband, the *Examiner's* **Phil Bronstein**, who boogied to "Twist and Shout" on stage. (Does **Clint Reilly** know about this?) The shindig, which featured **Elton John** on piano, raised over \$100,000 for the cause.

Oops! East Bay State Senator **Bill Lockyer** sent out a last-minute slate card for his attorney general campaign touting an "important" endorsement from Senator **Dianne Feinstein** — only the popular senator made no endorsement from that race.

Months ago, major players in both parties were predicting that the GOP would pick up 30 to 40 House seats this November. Now these same pundits are saying the Democrats could take control of the House; although it's unlikely,

they only need 11 seats. Meanwhile, nearly one in five incumbent House members are assured of winning re-election next fall. That's because 79 lawmakers — 50 Republicans and 29 Democrats — have no major party opponent in November. That number could rise to over 100 before the filing deadlines pass in all 50 states.

Rah-rah for Rudy: Give N.Y.C. Mayor **Rudy Giuliani** credit! He's one of the only New York City mayors in recent memory who doesn't roll over and play dead when that city's cardinal barks. Mayor Giuliani, himself a Catholic (and a Republican), went head-to-head with powerful Cardinal **John O'Connor** over Giuliani's plan to grant unmarried couples the same rights/benefits as married couples (on everything from housing to parking permits to burials). The anti-gay O'Connor spoke out bitterly last week from the pulpit against the mayor's domestic partners proposal. Giuliani replied that while he recognizes the cardinal "has every right to his opinion and to argue his moral view, this is a human rights issue." The mayor made it very clear that he was not going to knuckle under to the cardinal's bigoted bile.

The passing of a political dynamo: Former GOP Senator **Barry Goldwater**, an icon of the conservative movement who often broke with his own party (on issues such as abortion and gay rights), died last week at age 89. When he came out a few years ago in favor of equal rights for gays including those in the military ("You don't need to be straight to fight and die for your country. You just need to shoot straight"), he infuriated many Republicans, particularly those adherents of the religious right. Goldwater didn't mince words in denouncing the Christian bigots who'd taken over his party, either. When Goldwater's grandson told him a few years ago that he was gay, the former presidential candidate reportedly replied, "So what? I love you, and you just go out, do your best, and be proud of who and what you are." How ironic that this man is often dubbed "Mr. Conservative."

My Quote of the Week is from the always chatty Supervisor **Tom Ammiano**. Upon hearing that President Clinton had signed an executive order protecting all federal workers from job discrimination based on sexual orientation, Ammiano exclaimed, "I say to President Clinton, 'Congratulations, and it's about time.' I hope a lot of closet doors are flung open with this." ▼

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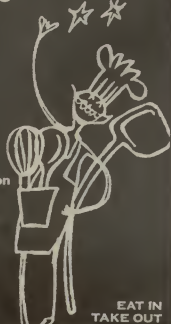
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EAT IN
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Attention, shoppers! Blue line special!

by Beth Elliott

I'm a Space Cowgirl, Bet You Weren't Ready for That Dept.: Over Memorial Day weekend, it was my turn to get back at Reggie White and inflict myself upon Wisconsin. Actually, the only trouble I stirred up was advocating free enterprise over statism as the best way (the only effective way, actually) to make sure human beings do more cool stuff in space. Seeing as how there are folks attempting to set themselves up as a kind of virtual nation with the supposed "authority" to control other people's activities in space, this actually was subversive behavior.

My reason for spending my long weekend in Milwaukee of all places? Presenting a paper on private commercial lunar sample return missions at the 17th annual International Space Development Conference. Space: it's not just for governments and militaries anymore — a number of companies are working on projects like sub-orbital space flight for tourists. NASA's looking to private industry to develop space exploration technology more cheaply than it can do in-house, and I was in Milwaukee to promote that trend ... while being curious about a real-life test of an old, non-scientific speculation.

Years ago, I had my astrology done. For those not fluent in Cosmic Muffin, astrology produces a map crisscrossed with blue lines showing where different planets would have been on the horizon or mid-heaven in one's horoscope had one been born along such a line. Before people routinely had computers on their desktops, I sent away to an outfit in El Cerrito who sent me back such a map with the notation, "You'd have a wonderful social life in Wisconsin." They were no doubt prompted to say that by the Sun and Venus lines running in close parallel from Milwaukee down through New Orleans.

I've not yet been to New Orleans; I kind of like the idea of being the toast of the town in a



place like that. As for Wisconsin, well, I'm sure it has its charms. Nonetheless, I think it's been a while since I might have been a Madison kind of gal. And besides, growing up here in the Bay Area as a "generational Californian"

(one of the Cyberdykes came up with that phrase ... I like it!) makes the thought of living anywhere else send shivers down one's spine.

Nonetheless, I couldn't help but wonder whether those blue lines all over that Mercator projection might presage an opportunity to mix business with pleasure ... or what it might mean if my eye went roving to no avail in a locale purportedly amenable to going on cruise-o-matic.

Actually, the whole matter turned out to be moot. Though I surfed the web for queer venues convenient to the host hotel and printed out a couple of Mapquest maps for that purpose, this was a working trip punctuated by hang time with friend and colleague Brother Jay and his adorable fiancée Leigh Ann, a/k/a "The Female in Question." I did see a lot of rainbow banners on streetlight poles when I arrived in town, which made me wonder whether they celebrate Pride Day early here. Would I be able to step out of the hotel and go on cruise-o-matic? No ... the banners were for an annual summer art and performance festival called the Rainbow Festival ... sigh! And while the woman of my dreams never did materialize in front of me there along those imaginary lines (bearing cheese, beer, and sausage?), I managed to be quite popular with the very people with whom I'd most hoped to network. Works for me!

Molly Ivins Can't Say That, Can She? Not Without Sounding Like an Idiot Dept.: I've got to have a warm spot in my heart for another feisty female who knows how to be really opinionated and mouth off. Nonetheless, I think Molly managed to embarrass herself mightily the other week, and on behalf of us California voters, too. This syndicated Texas writer joined the chorus of people claiming — inaccurately — that

working people would lose any political voice were Prop. 226 to pass and make their Beck rights automatic instead of something for which they must run a gantlet of union bosses.

"California, Whew!" wrote Molly. "Sometimes I think we ought to hang a cowbell around that sumbitch to let the future know to close the gate." Calling 226 our "latest lunacy" (nice way to convince us to vote your way!), she said there's nothing wrong with unions having to get annual permission to tax members for political advocacy as long as corporations have to do the same thing with their shareholders; that would give working people a fighting chance against corporate donations. Setting aside for a moment the facts that many workers disagree with the politics of their union leadership — and that a lot of workers have availed themselves of the opportunity to invest in corporations themselves — there were two fallacies in Molly's column that begged to be pointed out in the style of yet another Texas writer.

Numero uno, the law already states that member contributions to a union's political fund must be voluntary, per the case of *Beck v. Communications Workers of America*. The only problem is that unions don't inform members of this fact, and go out of their way to make it difficult for those who do know and choose to demur to exercise their rights. After all, when union members have a choice, most choose to spend their hard-earned money elsewhere.

Numero two-o, shareholders do get to vote on corporations spending money on political activities. By law, corporations must hold annual meetings at which policy matters are voted on by the shareholders. Moreover, shareholders who don't like their corporation's political activities are free at any time to sell their shares! ... as opposed to workers who must join a union in order to hold a particular job.

Corporations do outspend unions by a substantial margin. There are better ways, however, to take the money factor out of politics than by yet another system under which power factions get to pick our pockets without our consent. ▼

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Dr. Kelly is the former manager of the HIV Neurobehavioral Research Center at University of California, San Diego.

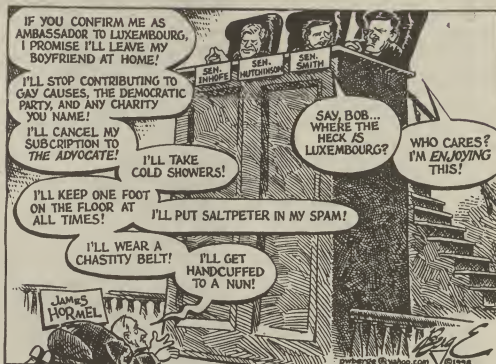


Wall Street Journal calls Hormel controversy 'intolerance'

by Don Romesburg,
GLAAD/SF media resource
center manager

In its May 21 "Politics and People" section, the *Wall Street Journal* discusses the blatant discrimination James Hormel, openly gay U.S. ambassadorial nominee for Luxembourg, is facing. His appointment is languishing as Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, pandering to the religious right, refuses to let it come to a vote in the full Senate. The Christian right engages in all manner of distortion to disguise the reason they oppose [him]: He is openly gay," writer Albert R. Hunt says. "The real significance of the confirmation struggle is what it says about the religious right, its clout with the Republican party and why the intolerance that has become its hallmark turns off many Americans."

Hunt continues, "Overreaching and outright fabrication are ubiquitous in the ugly fight against Mr. Hormel." He points to multiple examples of inflammatory deception used by religious political extremist groups to try to stop the appointment. He adds that numerous conservative senators and Reagan Administration Secretary of State George Schultz have endorsed the appointment. "But several conservative senators, including James Inhofe (R-Okla) — who, incredibly, has



likened Mr. Hormel to racist David Duke — are blocking even a vote on the nomination. They are doing the bidding of the conservative Christian organizations. Trent Lott figures this is an easy bone to throw to the religious right. This may work. It matters little who is ambassador to Luxembourg. But what does matter and what is being revealed here is the intolerance of organizations that too often call the tune in the Republican Party."

Please let the *Wall Street Journal* know that this frank and insightful commentary on religious political extremist groups is appreciated.

Contact: Paul Steiger, Managing Editor, *Wall Street Journal*, 200 Liberty St., NY, NY 10281-

1003, fax: 212.416.2658 (until 4 p.m. EST), e-mail: letter.editor@edit.wsj.com.

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Is Hibernia Beach LIVE... dead?

by Mark Mardon

The longest-running gay-themed talk show on commercial radio may be a casualty of sweeping changes at local alternative rock radio station KITS LIVE 105. Executives from parent company CBS Radio suspended *Hibernia Beach LIVE*, hosted by gay activist Ken McPherson, Wednesday, May 27, along with all other local programming, until further notice. Syndicated "shock jock" Howard Stern and *Lovelines*, a syndicated sex advice program, have begun airing on the San Francisco-based station as part of the ratings-motivated shake-up.

McPherson, 46, launched the program in 1989 when KITS management offered him a slot as a concession after homophobic comments by former morning host Alex Bennett sparked protests by the San Francisco Bay Area chapter of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. *Hibernia Beach LIVE* provides the only

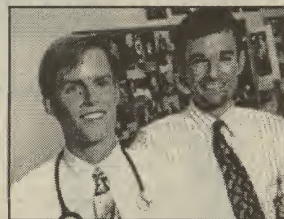
radio forum in which Bay Area youth can discuss current events and sensitive topics such as coming out, self-abuse, drug use, and family relationships with an openly gay host. The show has also featured a who's-who of lesbian and gay guests such as singer Melissa Etheridge, comedian Scott Thompson, author Andrew Sullivan, activist Keith Boykin, and athlete Greg Louganis.

"When I first started listening to *Hibernia Beach LIVE* I knew almost nothing about homosexuality," said 16-year-old Curt Gerard Robinson of Richmond. "If it wasn't for the show, I would never have come out to my friends and my parents." After hearing about it on the program, Robinson began attending the Gay Youth Group that meets each Saturday at the Pacific Center in Berkeley. The budding activist holds out some hope that his favorite radio program won't vanish.

"If enough of us call LIVE 105 and tell them how important the show is to queer youth," he said, "they'll keep it on the air." ▼

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June PolitiCalendar**A B.A.R. clip 'n' save feature**

Meetings of interest to the community throughout June, listed in order of each group's first event this month:

SF Youth CommissionJune 4, 18; 5-7 p.m.
City Hall, Room 207
401 Van Ness Avenue
(Meets 1st and 3rd Thursday)
Info: (415) 554-6446**Board of Supervisors**June 8, 15, 22, 29; 2 p.m.
City Hall, 4th floor
401 Van Ness Avenue,
For committee meetings
call (415) 554-5184**Alice B. Tokias
Democratic Club**June 8; 7-9 p.m.
New location: MCC-SF
150 Eureka Street
(Meets 2nd Monday)
Info: (415) 522-3809**Out on the Island**June 8; 7 p.m.
City of Alameda's gay
community action group
(Meets 2nd Monday)
Location/info. (510) 337-1300**L/G/B/T Pride**Celebration Committee
June 8, 23; 7:30 p.m.
1390 Market Street,
Suite 1225
Fox Plaza office building
Info: (415) 864-3733**ACT UP/Golden Gate**June 9, 16, 23, 30; 7:30 p.m.
592 Castro Street
(Meets every Tuesday)

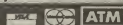
Info: (415) 252-9200

Oakland HIV Health ServicesPlanning Council
(Alameda, Contra Costa
counties)
June 10; 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
(Meets 2nd Wednesday)
Council's PWA Committee
June 12; 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
(Meets 2nd Friday)
Location/info. (510) 741-1856**HIV Prevention**Planning Council
June 11, 25; 3-6 p.m.
Unitarian Church,
1187 Franklin at Geary
For committee meetings,
call (415) 554-9000**Queer Latino Political**Action Committee (QL PAC)
June 11; 6:30 p.m.
Women's Building
3543 18th Street
(Meets 2nd Thursday)
Info: (415) 648-3702**Ambiente Latino**Democratic Club
June 13; 4 p.m.
(Meets 2nd Saturday)
Location/info. (415) 239-2221**Mayor's HIV Health**Services Planning Council
June 15, 22; 4:30 p.m.
SF AIDS Office
25 Van Ness Avenue, 3rd Floor
For committee meetings,
call (415) 554-9136**SF Health Commission**June 16; 3 p.m.
SF Department

of Public Health

101 Grove Street, Room 300
(Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesday)
Info: (415) 554-2666**LGBT Advisory Committee**SF Human Rights Commission
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25 Van Ness Avenue
(Meets 3rd Tuesday)
Info: (415) 252-2500**L/G/B/T Community**Center Project Board
June 17; 7 p.m.
Women's Building
3543 18th Street,
Info: (415) 241-1526**Lesbians and Gays**of African Descent for
Democratic Action (LGADDA)
June 18; 7 p.m.
507-B Divisadero
(Meets 3rd Thursday)
Info: (415) 273-1108**Log Cabin Republican Club**Annual pride dinner
June 27; 6 p.m.
Hyatt Embarcadero
Info, tix: (415) 522-2944**Call for information
about these June
meetings:****Harvey Milk Democratic Club**
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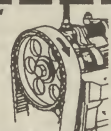
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HISTORY LESSON

She shot Andy Warhol

by David Bianco

This week in gay history: Valerie Solanas, the founder and only member of S.C.U.M. (Society for Cutting Up Men), shoots artist Andy Warhol in New York City June 3, 1968.

Famously, pop artist and avant-garde filmmaker Andy Warhol once wrote in the catalogue for a retrospective of his paintings, "In the future, everyone will be famous for 15 minutes." Warhol enjoyed a much longer time in the spotlight, in a career that spanned three decades and was punctuated by fabulous art openings, celebrity parties, and an assassination attempt by a disgruntled hanger-on. While Warhol's public life regularly made headlines, though, his private life was much more hidden.

The man who is generally credited with founding pop art was born Andrew Warhola in Pittsburgh in 1928, the son of Czech immigrants. His coal miner father died when he was young, and his mother helped support the family by selling tin flower arrangements that she crafted out of cans. Andy showed a talent for drawing and painting as a youngster and took free art lessons at Carnegie Institute. With financial support from his brother, a Good Humor ice cream man, Andy attended college at Carnegie Tech.

After graduation, the young artist moved to Manhattan, where he supported himself in commercial art. His first assignment was drawing women's shoes for *Glamour* magazine. By the mid-1950s, he had shortened his last name and was earning \$50,000 a year. Despite his financial success, however, Warhol was envious of his contemporaries, Jasper Johns and Robert Rauschenberg, who were younger but getting important gallery shows. When Warhol tried to break into the snobbish New York art world, he found that his years in advertising art damaged his credibility as a painter.

He had other liabilities, too — his exaggerated, effeminate mannerisms (patterned after his idol, Truman Capote) and his open homosexuality. Warhol's first gallery show was decidedly homoerotic, with paintings of beautiful male faces and of penises decorated with bows. At that time, Warhol had sexual relationships exclusively with men. Several of his boyfriends later admitted that Warhol was ambivalent about sex altogether, though he

always surrounded himself with handsome young men. Self-conscious about his looks (he lost most of his hair in his twenties, forcing him to wear wigs), he steered his energy into his work and his public image. "Sex takes up too much time," Warhol told a friend, and he consequently spent long periods of time being celibate, though he enjoyed voyeurism.

In 1962, Warhol made a name for himself in the art world with his silk-screened paintings of folk objects such as Campbell's soup cans and Coca-Cola bottles. Warhol's pop art brought together his training as a painter, his experience as a commercial artist, and his working-class background. (His mother, he told people, always served Campbell's soup.) Most critics at first thought his work was horrible, but collectors and museums snapped it up anyway. Warhol progressed to celebrity portraits, including a series of Marilyn Monroes painted shortly after her suicide. Within a short time, he was a celebrity himself, attending glamorous parties with beautiful young women instead of men on his arm. He created his own public persona: the shy, kind of dumb eccentric with no interest in sex.

Warhol the voyeur soon branched out into avant-garde filmmaking. One of his first projects was *Sleep*, a six-hour movie of his then-boyfriend sleeping. Eschewing professional actors, Warhol's casts were an unlikely combination of friends, transvestites, and street hustlers. He produced a series of films at a rapid pace at his studio in Manhattan, "The Factory." His best-known film, *Chelsea Girls* (1966), had a host of queer characters and was the first underground film to receive commercial distribution.

The Factory attracted aspiring artists and filmmakers, and Warhol gave many, especially Paul Morrissey, their start. In 1967, Valerie Solanas, a radical lesbian who was the founder and only member of S.C.U.M. (Society for Cutting Up Men), dropped off a screenplay called *Up Your Ass*, which she hoped Warhol would produce. Warhol misplaced the screenplay and tried to make it up to her by letting her appear in one of his films. The mentally unstable Solanas continued to hang around The Factory on and off for a year, waiting for her script to turn up and be produced.

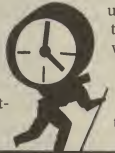
On the afternoon of June 3, 1968, Solanas met Warhol outside The Factory and entered the building with him. Warhol later remembered that she was nervously fumbling with a paper bag. Inside, Warhol made phone calls and carried on business as usual. Suddenly, Solanas drew a pistol out of the bag and aimed at

Warhol. No one paid attention until she shot the artist three times, almost fatally. Warhol was, in fact, pronounced dead at the hospital, but a doctor massaged his heart back to life. Although Warhol recovered physically and lived another 19 years, the incident scarred him emotionally. He re-

treated from filmmaking, exploring other creative avenues such as founding *Interview* magazine.

In 1987, Warhol died of a heart attack during routine gall bladder surgery. Six thousand people attended the public auction of his apartment's contents — everything from paintings by rivals Johns and Rauschenberg to a bizarre collection of cookie jars — which netted \$25 million. Ironically, appraisers found none of Warhol's own work in his apartment. "It's nothing in the end," he once said dismissively of his paintings. "My work won't last. ... I was using cheap paint." ▼

David Bianco can be reached care of the B.A.R. or at AriBianco@aol.com.



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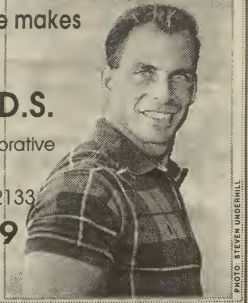


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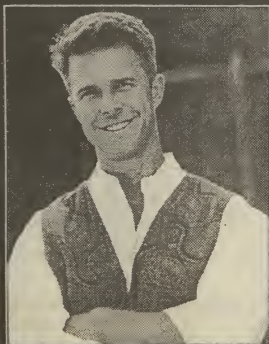


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Incumbent judges hold on; E defeated

by Wayne Friday

In an open race for a seat on the San Francisco County Superior Court, Commissioner Carol Yaggy, a lesbian, edged out gay Deputy Public Defender Ron Albers (51.5 percent to 48.4 percent). Yaggy replaces retiring Judge Raymond Williamson.

In a bitterly fought battle for the Municipal Court Office 1 seat, veteran Judge Dorothy von Beroldingen narrowly defeated her lesbian challenger, Nancy Davis, the life partner of Superior Court Judge Donna Hitchens. In other Municipal Court contests, incumbent Wallace Douglass beat back a challenge by well-known defense counsel V. Roy Lefcourt. Judge David Ballati defeated challenger Marla Zamora, and incumbent Judge Kevin Ryan turned back gay attorney Steve Collier.

City Assessor Doris Ward easily won re-election to another four-year term. Veteran Public Defender Jeff Brown ran unopposed.

In local proposition contests, San Francisco voters passed B (supervisors' salary increase), D (environmental project loans), H (water, sewer rate freeze), I (neighborhood notification of AIDS facilities and other public projects), J (Golden Gate Park garage) and L (Presidio housing). Voters turned thumbs down to A

(De Young Museum bonds), C (water utility income), the heavily funded E (rent control exemptions) and G (supervisors' staff reductions). Prop. A actually passed on a majority vote, but it failed to get the two-thirds margin required.

In two proposition races that were billed as a grudge match between longtime political foes Mayor Willie Brown and state Senator Quentin Kopp, Brown suffered somewhat of a political setback. Kopp's creations, Propositions F (city hall offices, proto-

col) and K (Treasure Island development), won in a walk.

San Francisco Representative Nancy Pelosi and Assemblypersons Carole Migden and Kevin Shelley easily won their Democratic party nominations and will face token opposition in the November general election.

San Jose voters will choose either Republican Councilwoman Pat Dando or former Santa Clara County Supervisor Ron Gonzales, a Democrat, in November to become the mayor of the Bay Area's largest city. ▼

Hayward gets gay councilmember, Brown takes Oakland

by Cynthia Laird

While virtually all of the media attention was in Oakland on election night to cover former Governor Jerry Brown's successful bid for mayor, another East Bay city was also making history by electing its first openly gay city councilmember. Kevin Dowling, who has been involved in Southern Alameda County gay rights measures for many years, beat out a Christian Coalition-backed candidate and others to win one of two seats on the Hayward City Council in the June 2 election.

Dowling, who will take office on June 30, the last day of gay pride month, told the B.A.R. that he had a lot of support from the gay community in Hayward and elsewhere. Dowling received Victory Fund support, as well as the backing of GLOBE (Gays and Lesbians Organized for Betterment and Equality), an East Bay group.

Dowling won his seat on the council with 5,313 votes, or 18.8

percent of the vote. Coming in first was incumbent Matt Jimenez, who garnered 8,547 votes, or 30.3 percent. Nathaniel Bruno, a Christian Coalition-backed candidate, trailed well behind with 2,315 votes, or 8.2 percent.

"I'm exhausted," an obviously happy Dowling said yesterday morning. "We had substantial support from the gay community here." In addition to GLOBE, the World Famous Turf Club, a popular Hayward gay bar, also threw its support behind Dowling.

Two openly gay candidates for the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee in Oakland and Alameda, Vicky Kolakowski and Darrel Carey, lost in their bids for office.

Meanwhile, in Oakland, Brown trounced his 10 opponents, capturing 43,953 votes, or 58.7 percent. Brown, who's currently gathering signatures for a strong-mayor proposal for the November ballot, will take office in January. ▼

Davis outpolls rival Dems; Lungren comes in second

by Wayne Friday

Democratic Lieutenant Governor Gray Davis, a party veteran who trailed the field in statewide polls only weeks ago, easily defeated his millionaire opponents, Alfred Checchi and Representative Jane Harman, to win his party's nomination for governor in Tuesday's first-ever open primary. Davis will face archconservative state Attorney General Dan Lungren in November. Davis, hugely outspent by his two Democratic primary opponents, actually polled more votes than Lungren (35 percent to 33 percent), and with the support of both Checchi and Harman, he is given at least an even chance of regaining the California governor's office for his party for the first time in nearly two decades.

Former Assembly Speaker Cruz Bustamante (D) will face conservative, anti-gay GOP state Senator Tim Leslie in the race for lieutenant governor come No-

vember. East Bay state Senator Bill Lockyer won the Democratic nomination for attorney general and will vie against Republican Dave Stirling. San Francisco native Michela Alioto (D) will take on incumbent California Secretary of State Bill Jones. Incumbent Democratic Controller Kathleen Connell will go up against San Mateo County Supervisor Ruben Barrales, a Republican. Former Demo state party chair Phil Angelides will face off against another conservative Republican, Assemblyman Curt Pringle, for state treasurer. Los Angeles-area Assemblywoman Diane Martinez will challenge incumbent state Insurance Commissioner Chuck Quackenbush (R).

In the state's only "non-partisan" race, incumbent Superintendent of Public Instruction Delaine Eastin will have to best Gloria Matta Tuchman in the general election if she is to keep her post.

As for the state propositions, the contentious Prop. 227 (limiting

page 27 ►

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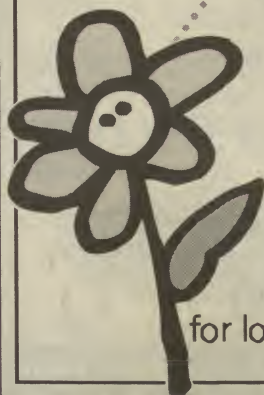
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Gays strike out in Oregon elections

by Bob Roehr

All three openly gay or lesbian candidates on the Oregon ballot went down to defeat in the May 19 primary. But it took more than a week of nail-biting and counting of every last damaged ballot before Chuck Carpenter lost by 54 votes. The final total was 3,373 votes for Bill Witt, and 3,319 for Carpenter.

Carpenter is a moderate, and the only openly gay Republican state legislator in the country. The two-term representative championed state employment nondiscrimination legislation for lesbians and gays.

Witt is a darling of the religious right. He had run twice before for Congress and lost. But he brought name recognition, personal wealth, and the organization of the far right to his cause. It was enough to squeak out a victory.

The Oregon establishment rallied behind Carpenter, including conservative U.S. Senator Gordon Smith. And he certainly raised enough money for the effort. His last campaign finance report, filed a week before the primary, showed that he had collected \$238,812, a new record in a state where such races seldom cost more than \$100,000. Large chunks came from both business and labor organizations within the state. Nationally, Log Cabin Republicans chipped in \$10,000 and the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund added \$5,550.

Witt reported raising \$43,000, but that figure may be deceiving.



Chuck Carpenter

Archconservative groups like the Christian Coalition and the Oregon Citizen's Alliance conducted their own "independent" campaign activities that would not show up in campaign finance documents.

Both candidates ran limited write-in efforts for the Democratic primary, as there was no official candidate in the predominately Republican district. Witt appears to have won that as well. State law bars the loser of one primary from running as a candidate of the other party in the fall election, so Carpenter's results are immaterial.

"We are extremely disappointed," said Brian Bond, executive director of the Victory Fund.

"Chuck represented everything that was good about politics."

"It is a wake up call for the whole gay and lesbian community across the country, despite their political affiliations," said Rich Tafel, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans. "The war against the far right within the Republican party is central to our mission, and we hope every gay and lesbian American recognizes the vital importance of this fight."

Carpenter did not return phone calls placed over several days.

Eighmy and Willer

Term limits forced State Representative George Eighmy from his seat. He ran for the Multnomah County Council, the region that includes Portland. No one in the earlier multi-candidate race won an absolute majority, but Eighmy came in second. He was trounced in the run-off, capturing only 36 percent of the vote in a head-to-head contest. The campaign had been friendly, with both candidates sharing similar political philosophies.

Barbara Willer also tried for a seat on the Multnomah County Council. Her first race for office turned ugly, with charges of negative tactics and unethical behavior flying from both sides. Willer had a respectable showing, losing by about 400 votes. ▼

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Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa to celebrate gay Pride this weekend

Marches, parties, comedy, 'Ellen' charity drawing promised

by Vicky Kolakowski

Northern California's gay and lesbian Pride season begins this weekend with celebrations in Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa.

In Santa Cruz, pride weekend begins with the now-traditional Dyke March on Saturday, June 6. Marchers will gather at the Clock Tower at 6 p.m. and will begin to march at around 7 p.m. The march will be followed by drummers and speakers emceed by Mariposa and V's. While only

dykes march, all are invited to show support and to party.

Later Saturday night, the Erotic Costume Ball will choose Mr. and Ms. Erotic Santa Cruz, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting the pride events. The ball begins at 9 p.m. at the Dance Gallery, located at 418 Front Street in Santa Cruz; tickets are \$7-\$10 at the door. All ages are welcome, and this is a smoke and alcohol free event.

The 24th annual Santa Cruz Pride Celebration begins on Sunday, June 7 with a parade down Pacific Avenue, beginning at

Cathcart and Cedar at noon. The celebration continues at San Lorenzo Park in the Bencheslands until 5 p.m. There is no cost to attend. The celebration will be followed by a party at the Blue Lagoon, 923 Pacific Avenue.

In Santa Rosa, pride weekend kicks off with the fourth annual Lesbian and Gay Pride Comedy Night, on Saturday, June 6 at 8 p.m. at the Luther Burbank Center in Santa Rosa. The event stars Suzanne Westenhoefer, with Dan Rothenberg hosting. Tickets are \$16.50 general, \$14 for students and seniors. Tickets are available through the Burbank Center (707) 546-3600, or from any BASS ticket outlet. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Sonoma County Pride Committee.



Comic Danny Williams will perform at Sonoma County's Pride celebration on June 7.

The Sonoma County Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade begins on Sunday, June 7 at noon at Mendocino Avenue and First Street in Santa Rosa, and proceeds to Santa Rosa Junior College. The celebration will continue at the college campus, including entertainment by Blackberry, Mark Weigle, Copper Wimmim, Megan McElroy and Janelle Burdel, Sistah Boom and Danny Williams. Festivities include a wedding ceremony, food, crafts and community service booths.

One unusual event at the Santa Rosa celebration will be an "Opportunity Drawing" by New Hope! MCC for an autographed script from the *Ellen* show for the episode "A Public Display of Affection." The script is signed by the entire cast and comes with a video of the episode. The script had previously been auctioned off last fall by the church for \$400 as a fundraiser, but was subsequently donated back and is offered to the community through this "opportunity drawing."

Tickets for the drawing may be purchased for \$1 each at the church's booth at the festival on June 7, or by pre-purchase by calling the church at (707) 526-4673. The winner need not be present at the drawing. ▼

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Treatment of Anemia in Zidovudine-Treated HIV-Infected Patients

PROCRIT is indicated for the treatment of anemia related to therapy with zidovudine in HIV-infected patients. PROCRIT is indicated to elevate or maintain the red blood cell level (as manifested by the hemoglobin or hematocrit) and to decrease the need for transfusions in these patients. PROCRIT is not indicated for the treatment of anemia in HIV-infected patients due to other factors such as iron or folate deficiencies, hemolysis or gastrointestinal bleeding, which should be managed appropriately.

PROCRIT at a dose of 100 Units/kg three times per week is effective in decreasing the transfusion requirements and increasing the red blood cell level of anemic, HIV-infected patients treated with zidovudine, when the endogenous serum level of erythropoietin is ≤ 500 mU/mL, and when patients are receiving a dose of zidovudine $\leq 4,200$ mg/week.

Responsiveness to PROCRIT therapy may be blunted by concurrent infections/inflammatory episodes and by an increase in zidovudine dosage. Consequently, the dose of PROCRIT must be titrated based on these factors to maintain the desired erythropoietic response.

Treatment of Anemia in Cancer Patients on Chemotherapy

PROCRIT is indicated for the treatment of anemia in patients with non-myeloid malignancies where anemia is due to the effect of concomitantly administered chemotherapy. PROCRIT is indicated to decrease the need for transfusions in patients who will be receiving concomitant chemotherapy for a minimum of 2 months. PROCRIT is not indicated for the treatment of anemia in cancer patients due to other factors such as iron or folate deficiencies, hemolysis or gastrointestinal bleeding which should be managed appropriately.

Available evidence suggests that patients with myeloid and solid cancers respond equivalently to PROCRIT therapy, and that patients with or without tumor infiltration of the bone marrow respond equivalently to PROCRIT therapy.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

PROCRIT is contraindicated in patients with:

- 1) Uncontrolled hypertension.
- 2) Known hypersensitivity to mammalian cell-derived products.
- 3) Known hypersensitivity to Albumin (Human).

WARNINGS

Pediatric Use: The multipeptide preserved formulation contains benzyl alcohol. Benzyl alcohol has been reported to be associated with an increased incidence of neurological and other complications in premature infants which are sometimes fatal. The safety and effectiveness of EPOetin alfa in children have not been established.

Thrombotic Events and Increased Mortality: In a randomized, prospective trial of 1265 hemodialysis patients with clinically evident cardiac disease (ischemic heart disease or congestive heart failure), an increased mortality was observed in those patients randomized to a target hematocrit of 42% as compared to those patients targeted to remain at a hematocrit of 30%. The reason for increased mortality observed in these studies is unknown; however, the incidence of non-fatal myocardial infarction (3.1% vs. 2.3%), vascular access thrombosis (3.9% vs. 2.9%), and all other thrombotic events (22% vs. 18%) were also higher in the group randomized to achieve a hematocrit of 42%.

Increased mortality was observed in a randomized placebo-controlled study of PROCRIT in patients who did not have chronic renal failure who were undergoing coronary artery bypass surgery (7 deaths in 125 patients randomized to PROCRIT vs. no deaths among 56 patients receiving placebo). Four of these deaths occurred during the period of study drug administration and all four deaths were associated with thrombotic events. While the extent of the population affected is unknown, in patients at risk for thrombosis, the anticipated benefits of PROCRIT treatment should be weighed against the potential for increased risks associated with therapy.

Zidovudine-Treated HIV-Infected Patients

PROCRIT therapy has not been linked to exacerbation of hypertension, seizures, and thrombotic events in HIV-infected patients.

PRECAUTIONS

The parenteral administration of any biologic product should be attended by appropriate precautions in case allergic or other untoward reactions occur (see "CONTRAINDICATIONS"). In clinical trials, while transient

rashes were occasionally observed concurrently with PROCRIT therapy, no serious allergic or anaphylactic reactions were reported. See "ADVERSE REACTIONS" for more information regarding allergic reactions. The safety and efficacy of PROCRIT therapy have not been established in patients with a known history of a seizure disorder or underlying hematologic disease (e.g., sickle cell anemia, myelodysplastic syndromes, or hypercoagulable disorders).

In some female patients, menses have resumed following PROCRIT therapy; the possibility of pregnancy should be discussed and the need for contraception evaluated.

Hematology: Exacerbation of porphyria has been observed rarely in patients with CRF treated with PROCRIT. Nevertheless, PROCRIT should be used with caution in patients with known porphyria.

In preclinical studies in dogs and rats, but not in monkeys, PROCRIT therapy was associated with sub-clinical bone marrow fibrosis. Bone marrow fibrosis is a known complication of CRF in humans and may be related to secondary hyperparathyroidism or unknown factors.

In zidovudine-treated HIV-infected and cancer patients, hematocrit should be measured once a week until stabilized and periodically thereafter.

Delayed or Diminished Response: If the patient fails to respond or to maintain a response to doses within the recommended dosing range, the following etiologies should be considered and evaluated:

- 1) Iron deficiency: Virtually all patients will eventually require supplemental iron therapy (see "Iron Evaluation").
- 2) Underlying infectious, inflammatory, or malignant processes.
- 3) Occult blood loss.
- 4) Underlying hematologic diseases (i.e., thalassemia refractory anemia, or other myelodysplastic disorder).
- 5) Vitamin deficiencies: folic acid or vitamin B12.
- 6) Hemolysis.
- 7) Aluminum intoxication.
- 8) Osteitis fibrosa cystica.

Iron Evaluation: During PROCRIT therapy, absolute functional iron deficiency may develop. Functional iron deficiency, with normal ferritin levels but low transferrin saturation, is presumably due to the inability to mobilize iron stores rapidly enough to support increased erythropoiesis. Transferrin saturation should be at least 20% and ferritin should be at least 100 ng/mL.

Prior to and during PROCRIT therapy, the patient's iron status, including transferrin saturation (serum iron divided by iron binding capacity) and serum ferritin, should be evaluated. Virtually all patients will eventually require supplemental iron to increase or maintain transferrin saturation to levels which will adequately support erythropoiesis as evidenced by PROCRIT.

Drug Interactions: No evidence of interaction of PROCRIT with other drugs was observed in the course of clinical trials.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, and Impairment of Fertility: Carcinogenic potential of PROCRIT has not been evaluated. PROCRIT does not induce bacterial gene mutation (Ames test), chromosomal aberrations in mammalian cells, micronuclei in mice, or gene mutation at the HGPRT locus. In female rats treated intravenously with PROCRIT, there was a trend for slightly increased fetal wastage at doses of 100 and 500 Units/kg.

Pregnancy Category C: There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. PROCRIT should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

In studies in female rats, there were decreases in body weight gain, delays in appearance of abdominal hair, delayed eyelid opening, delayed ossification, and decreases in the number of caudal vertebrae in the F1 fetuses of the 500 Units/kg group. In female rats treated intravenously with a dose of 100 and 500 Units/kg, there were no adverse effects on body weight gain, delays in appearance of abdominal hair, eyelid opening, and decreases in the number of caudal vertebrae in the F1 fetuses of the 500 Units/kg group. There were no effects related to PROCRIT on the F2 generation fetuses.

Nursing mothers: Postnatal observations of the live offspring (F1 generation) of female rats treated with PROCRIT during gestation and lactation revealed no effect of PROCRIT at doses of up to 500 Units/kg. There were, however, decreases in body weight gain, delays in appearance of abdominal hair, eyelid opening, and decreases in the number of caudal vertebrae in the F1 fetuses of the 500 Units/kg group. There were no effects related to PROCRIT on the F2 generation fetuses.

It is not known whether PROCRIT is excreted in human milk. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk, caution should be exercised when PROCRIT is administered to a nursing woman.

Pediatric Use: The safety and effectiveness of PROCRIT in children have not been established (see "WARNINGS").

Zidovudine-Treated HIV-Infected Patients: Hypertension: Exacerbation of hypertension has not been observed in zidovudine-treated HIV-infected patients treated with PROCRIT. However, PROCRIT should be withheld in these patients if pre-existing hypertension is uncontrolled, and should not be started until blood pressure is controlled. In double-blind studies, a single seizure has been experienced by a patient treated with PROCRIT.

Cancer Patients on Chemotherapy: Hypertension: Hypertension, associated with a significant increase in hematocrit, has been noted rarely in cancer patients treated with PROCRIT. Nevertheless, blood pressure in patients treated with PROCRIT should be monitored carefully, particularly in patients with an underlying history of hypertension or cardiovascular disease.

Seizures: In double-blind, placebo-controlled trials, 3.2% of patients treated with PROCRIT and 2.9% of placebo-treated patients had seizures. Seizures in 1.6% of patients treated with PROCRIT occurred in the context of a significant increase in blood pressure and hematocrit baseline values. However, both patient groups treated with PROCRIT also had underlying CNS pathology which may have been related to seizure activity.

Thrombotic events: In double-blind, placebo-controlled trials, 3.2% of patients treated with PROCRIT and 2.9% of placebo-treated patients had thrombotic events (e.g., pulmonary embolism, cerebrovascular accident).

Growth Factor Potential: PROCRIT is a growth factor that primarily stimulates red blood cell production. However, the possibility that PROCRIT can act as a growth factor for any tumor type, particularly myeloid malignancies, cannot be excluded.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Zidovudine-Treated HIV-Infected Patients: Adverse events reported in clinical trials with PROCRIT in zidovudine-treated HIV-infected patients were consistent with the progression of HIV infection in double-blind, placebo-controlled studies of three months duration involving approximately 300 zidovudine-treated HIV-infected patients, adverse events with an incidence of $\geq 10\%$ in either patients treated with PROCRIT or placebo-treated patients were:

Event	PROCRIT Patients (N=144)	PLACEBO-Treated Patients (N=153)
Pyrexia	38%	29%
Fatigue	25%	31%
Headache	19%	14%
Cough	18%	14%
Diarrhea	16%	18%
Rash	16%	8%
Congestion	15%	10%
Respiratory	15%	10%
Nausea	15%	12%
Shortness of Breath	14%	13%
Asthenia	11%	14%
Skin Reaction	10%	7%
(Administration Site)		
Dizziness	9%	10%

There were no statistically significant differences between treatment groups in the incidence of the above events.

In the 257 patients studied, PROCRIT was not associated with significant increases in opportunistic infections or mortality. In 71 patients from this group treated with PROCRIT at 150 Units/kg (T.W.), serum p24 antigen levels did not appear to increase. Preliminary data showed no enhancement of HIV replication in infected cell lines in vitro.

Peripheral white blood cell and platelet counts are unchanged following PROCRIT therapy.

Allergic Reactions: Two zidovudine-treated HIV-infected patients had urticarial reactions within 48 hours of their first exposure to study medication. One patient was treated with PROCRIT and one was treated with placebo (PROCRIT vehicle alone). Both patients had positive immediate skin tests against their study medication with a negative saline control. The basis for this apparent hypersensitivity to components of the PROCRIT formulation is unknown, but may be related to HIV-induced immunosuppression or prior exposure to blood products.

Seizures: In double-blind and open-label trials of PROCRIT in zidovudine-treated HIV-infected patients, ten patients have experienced seizures. In general, these seizures appear to be related to underlying pathology such as meningitis or cerebral neoplasms, not PROCRIT therapy.

Cancer Patients on Chemotherapy

Adverse experiences reported in clinical trials with PROCRIT in cancer patients were consistent with the underlying disease state. In double-blind, placebo-controlled studies of up to 3-months duration involving 131 cancer patients, adverse events with an incidence $\geq 10\%$ in either patients treated with PROCRIT or placebo-treated patients were as indicated below:

Event	PROCRIT Patients (N=63)	PLACEBO-Treated Patients (N=68)
Pyrexia	29%	19%
Diarrhea	21%	7%
Nausea	17%	32%
Vomiting	17%	15%
Edema	17%	1%
Asthenia	13%	16%
Fatigue	13%	15%
Shortness of Breath	13%	9%
Paresthesia	11%	6%
Upper Respiratory Infection	11%	4%
Dizziness	5%	12%
Trunk Pain	3%	16%

a p = 0.041 b p = 0.069 c p = 0.0016 d p = 0.017

Although some statistically significant differences between patients treated with PROCRIT and placebo-treated patients were noted, the overall safety profile of PROCRIT appeared to be consistent with the disease process of advanced cancer. During double-blind and subsequent open-label therapy in which patients (N=72) were treated for up to 32 weeks with doses as high as 327 Units/kg, the adverse experience profile of PROCRIT was consistent with the progression of advanced cancer.

Based on comparable survival data and on the percentage of patients treated with PROCRIT and placebo-treated patients who discontinued therapy due to death, disease progression or adverse experiences (22% and 13%, respectively, p=0.25), the clinical outcome in patients treated with PROCRIT and placebo-treated patients appeared to be similar. Available data from animal tumor models and measurement of proliferation of solid tumor cells from clinical biopsy specimens in response to PROCRIT did not demonstrate tumor growth. Nevertheless, as a growth factor, the possibility that PROCRIT may potentiate growth of some tumors, particularly myeloid tumors, cannot be excluded.

The mean peripheral white blood cell count was unchanged following PROCRIT therapy compared to the corresponding value in the placebo-treated group.

OVERDOSAGE

The maximum amount of PROCRIT that can be safely administered in single or multiple doses has not been determined. Doses of up to 1,500 Units/kg (T.W.) for three to four weeks have been administered without any direct toxic effects of PROCRIT itself. Therapy with PROCRIT can result in polycythemia if the hematocrit is not carefully monitored and the dose appropriately adjusted. If the suggested target range is exceeded, PROCRIT may be temporarily withheld until the hematocrit returns to the suggested target range; PROCRIT therapy may then be resumed using a lower dose (see "DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION"). If polycythemia is of concern, phlebotomy may be indicated to decrease the hematocrit.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Latin dance-club rivalry erupts over who takes stage at Pride

by Mark Mardon

Michael Amodeo is fuming, and wants every supporter of the local gay Latino community to know it. As producer of Futura, which he deems "San Francisco's largest Latino dance club," Amodeo feels he deserves a lot more respect than he's getting from the people pulling together this summer's San Francisco Pride Celebration at Civic Center. He charges Pride organizers and rival Latin dance-club promoters "from outside the city" with unjustly barring him from what is to be Pride's first-ever Latin stage.

Although Amodeo and Futura have been given prominence on the main stage of the event, he is furious that the Pride Committee has, in his view, "excluded" Futura from the Latin Stage, while allowing that platform to be the exclusive domain of a trio of other Latin clubs, most notably San Jose's Club Papi, along with Latin Explosion, a popular Oakland dance club. He dismisses the third

politics here," says Diane Felix of Colors. "So what if [Club Papi and Latin Explosion] are outsiders? We're the ones who thought of doing a whole-day celebration with salsa, cumbia, rancheras, meringue, Latin house music, and Spanish rock. We wanted to showcase it and celebrate our music. If he [Amodeo] were more aware, he'd have thought of it."

Felix also takes umbrage at Amodeo's dismissal of her club as small scale.

"Yes, we're really small, and we prefer to stay that way," Felix says. "It's a private party we do once a month with about 100 to 150 people. It's about having a safe place for Spanish-speaking lesbians to go."

All monies raised by Colors, adds Felix, go "to promote Latina lesbian visibility." Colors sponsors a soccer team for young Latinas, promotes film projects, and has donated to the political campaigns of Carole Migden, Juanita Owens, Roberta Achtenberg, and others.

"Club business is sometimes like Microsoft and Netscape."

— Club Papi promoter Jamie Awad

participant, San Francisco-based Colors, as only a small monthly Latina lesbian club.

"Pride should symbolize unity in the Latin community," declares Amodeo, who accuses Club Papi's promoter Jamie Awad of intentionally locking him out. "Unfortunately, it's turned into petty self-promotion by club promoters from outside the city."

"Club business is sometimes like Microsoft and Netscape," responds Awad, a San Francisco resident and native. "The other club participants and I don't have a business relationship with Michael Amodeo or Futura. We got together not to exclude Futura, but because last year [at Pride] we got only a half-hour time slot in the afternoon when there was nobody there. They rushed us off the stage. But there's all these Latinos who want to listen to Spanish music. That's where the creation of the Latin Stage came from."

According to Ken Bunch, director of Pride's main stage and a talent coordinator for the whole event, Futura was not included on the Latin stage because "Futura did not make a proposal to Pride. Club Papi did."

Pride Committee Executive Director Teddy Witherington confirmed to the B.A.R. that "Club Papi, Colors, and Latin Explosion came to us with a proposal to do a Latin stage. We hadn't done anything like that before. There has not been a Latino stage before."

Asked why Futura wasn't among those invited to take part in the Latin Stage, Witherington replied, "I don't wait in my office for brainwaves coming from Michael Amodeo or anyone else."

Is bigger better?

"I don't understand the club

"The issue regarding the Latin

Stage has nothing to do with the main stage," replies Amodeo. "Pride should symbolize unity in the Latin community. My audience is a Latin audience, but I've been prohibited from putting performers on the Latin Stage."

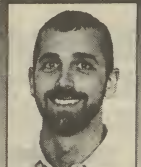
Solution or promotion?

In an odd twist that some see as both hypocrisy and an astute business move, Amodeo is taking Club Futura to San Jose for that

page 24 ►

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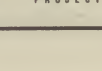
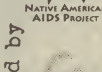
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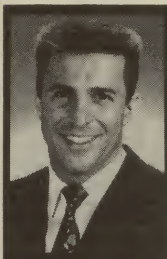
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TG hate crimes bill passes Assembly

by M.R. Richards, B.A.R.
Capitol Correspondent

Like the "Little Engine That Could," Speaker Pro-Tem Sheila Kuehl's Hate Crimes Bill, AB 1999, passed out of the California State Assembly Wednesday, May 27, and is on its way to the Senate.

The bill, called the Hate Crimes Bill or the Transgender Hate Crimes Bill, clarifies existing state law and strengthens the law under which hate crimes against transgender persons can be prosecuted. Current California hate crimes law provides penalty enhancements for violent crimes that are hate-based and motivated

by a victim's actual or perceived race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, disability, gender, or sexual orientation. AB 1999 clarifies that a violent crime committed against a transgender person because of their gender is a hate crime based on current law. The bill also standardizes California's hate crime statutes by adding "gender" to the sections where it is missing. Law enforcement and DA offices except for San Francisco and Los Angeles have been reluctant to prosecute gender cases because the law was not specific; AB 1999 clarifies the law.

The bill's odyssey is a tribute to Kuehl's vision particularly since, in April, word was out that the bill

wouldn't pass the Assembly Public Safety Committee. Kuehl's staff attorney Jennifer Richard and then-LIFE Lobby advocate Ellen McCormick worked tirelessly on the bill, which passed Public Safety on a 7-0 vote, passed Assembly Appropriations on a 15-1 vote, won the endorsement of Attorney General Dan Lungren, and passed out of Assembly with a few minor amendments and a respectable 52-15 vote. Capitol insiders also give credit to Boyce Hinman of Lambda Letters, which peppered members of the Assembly with letters of support from constituents.

AB 1999 will now move to the Senate and committee hearings before going to a vote on the Senate floor. ▼

Clinton opposes religious amendment

by M.R. Richards

In his May 30 radio address to the nation, President Clinton expressed strong support for the U.S. Department of Education-revised presidential guidelines on school prayer. Backed by 30 major religious and church organizations, Clinton said, "Nothing in the First Amendment converts our public schools into religion-free zones, or requires all religious expression to be left behind at the school house door." While acknowledging that guideline changes were needed to clear up confusion about what is permissible in schools, Clinton said, "These guidelines represent a very broad consensus of many religious groups."

Clinton was taking a jab at the "Religious Freedom Amendment," the first constitutional amendment in 25 years, sponsored by GOP House member Ernest Istook of Oklahoma. Istook's amendment is being sup-

ported by right wing religious activists. While lauding the new guidelines, which were changed as a result of the June, 1997 Supreme Court ruling that held the 1993 Religious Freedom Restoration Act to be unconstitutional, Clinton said the school prayer amendment is the "wrong way" to protect religious freedom.

"Helping communities to find common ground about religious expression is the right way," Clinton said, "There's also a wrong way: amending the Constitution." The president said that as long as people fully understand their religious rights, and they are sensibly applied in public schools, the Constitution "does not need to be rewritten."

Clinton's remarks seem to be in response to concerns that the constitutional amendment could be the first step toward establishing Christianity as the state religion. Reverend Jerry Sloan, researcher on the activities of the religious right said, "I'm extremely

leery of this amendment. This could be the first step in effort to establish an official religion for the country - it also has political and organizing aspects built-in which are ingenious. First, this issue is sprung in an election year - who in their right mind would vote against religion in an election year? So it gives the religious right the opportunity to work over both the House and the Senate, dogging them, keeping track of the vote which can then be passed on to the faithful back home.

"If it passes both houses it goes to the individual states, which will require organizing the faithful to put pressure on their state representatives - or else!"

"Second, I find it reprehensible to hide this political organizing tool behind kids and schools when they're perfectly aware of the religious freedom available in the school setting. They could hardly want more unless they want to celebrate daily High Mass on the school steps." ▼

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Cultural competency needed for HPPC members, staff, consultants

by Cynthia Laird

The consultants who work for the city's HIV Prevention Planning Council (HPPC) need a course on cultural competency as soon as possible, members of a HPPC task force said last week. The group's Cultural Competency Task Force has requested that all councilmembers and those working for the council – either as staff through the Department of Public Health's AIDS Office or Harder and Company, its consulting firm – undergo cultural competency training. The move was sparked by a HPPC member, who alleged that racist incidents have

occurred last year and more recently at a HPPC retreat by a technical support staff person.

Co-chair Ellen Goldstein announced at the May 28 meeting that the HPPC will hear about the issue in greater detail, including use of an outside facilitator for the training at its next meeting, Thursday, June 11. Goldstein said any funding for an outside facilitator would not come out of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) prevention funds that have been allocated to San Francisco. Funding would come from other CDC sources, she said.

"We are writing to follow up on the serious set of events that have occurred in the past several

weeks regarding the need for increased cultural competency training of all HPPC consultants and members," stated the letter from the task force, chaired by member Sonja Mackenzie. "While we know that there have been certain individuals involved in these incidents, we feel strongly that the most productive response to this situation will be to strengthen the cultural competency of all individuals working with the council."

Mackenzie's letter did not get into specifics, but at last week's meeting, member Sacul L'Adnre said that she has been holding in much anger, since an alleged incident first occurred about a year ago. At a recent HPPC retreat, an-

other incident occurred, apparently involving the same individual. After the first incident she complained to AIDS Office staff and got nowhere, she said. L'Adnre was in favor of the direction the HPPC is taking but said she is still dealing with the issue. Goldstein said she has received a letter from Lyn Paleo, of Harder and Company, that recognizes the importance of what happened at the retreat. Paleo was not at last week's meeting.

Mackenzie's letter also recommends that the AIDS Office work with Harder and Company "to ensure that all Harder and Company staff, current and future, undergo training in cultural competency. We request that the current staff participate in training as soon as possible, but also ask that this training be the first step in an ongoing commitment to

further staff development around these critical issues."

Additionally, the task force recommended that the AIDS Office work with Harder and Company, which is contracted through the AIDS Office for its work with the HPPC, to reiterate to all staff the appropriate roles of the technical support staff in the HPPC committee meetings.

"We have felt at times that the technical support has questioned the work of committee members, and has therefore compromised the work of the committee and undermined the respect due to individuals," stated Mackenzie's letter. ▼

The June 11 HPPC meeting is from 3 to 6 p.m. at First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin Street, at Geary.

DSCS gets \$15K for HIV services to homeless Latinos

by Cynthia Laird

Dolores Street Community Services (DSCS) has received a \$15,000 grant from the AT&T and Academy of Friends grant-making collaborative to provide HIV education services to homeless Latinos in San Francisco. The funds will be used to provide culturally appropriate HIV education to staff and guests of the Dolores Housing Program, one of the city's few providers of emergency food and housing services to single Latino men.

"We are delighted in AT&T and the Academy of Friends' commitment to this often invisible group of our brothers who are falling through the cracks of the

quickly unraveling welfare safety net," said Bob Nelson, DSCS executive director.

Nelson said that gaps in San Francisco's continuum of care have left the Latino homeless working poor in urgent need of HIV/AIDS prevention and education. Latino homeless men who have sex with men are a highly invisible population within the city, experiencing alienation from both the gay and Latino communities, he added.

"Both gay and straight homeless Latinos at risk, and those infected by HIV, do not normally access conventional HIV programs and services," Nelson said. "Education must be presented by people they trust in the shelter environment in which they feel comfortable."

DSCS was organized in 1982 as a multi-service organization to provide housing, sanctuary, and support for people seeking dignity, health, and hope in San Francisco's Mission and Castro neighborhoods. The agency's programs include the Richard M. Cohen Residence, a licensed facility providing supportive housing to people living with AIDS who were previously homeless; the Dolores Housing Program, the city's largest provider of emergency food and housing to homeless Latinos and working poor; and a much used community center at 938 Valencia Street. ▼

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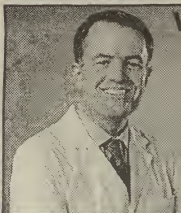
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Sunshine

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ly optimistic" the board will okay the law at the second vote this Monday, June 8. (Board rules specify that all ordinances must go through two separate votes, at least five days apart.) After final approval, it will go to Mayor Willie Brown for his signature. If signed, it would go into effect within 30 days.

On Monday, Ammiano told the full board that the topic has been discussed in depth at three public hearings, including a marathon session of the board's Finance Committee last Wednesday, May 27, and at numerous meetings of the 20-member Task Force on Nonprofit Accountability he convened to work out the law. The task force was composed of activists, nonprofit administrators, and board members. Ammiano said that common ground was found in the ultimate amended version that was presented to the supervisors. He strongly urged that it be voted on rather than continued for another week, as Teng had wanted.

"My basic feeling is we came to the Finance Committee with a compromise that was honorable," said Supervisor Tom Ammiano. "Now, even that compromise is being compromised."

er week, as Teng had wanted. "It's very important cutting-edge legislation. While we did hear from people newer to the scene for a continuance, [I'd urge] a vote on it," Ammiano said, "as perfect or imperfect as it may be."

Jeff Getty, with ACT UP/Golden Gate, an organization that was represented on the task force and spearheaded passage of an even tougher version of the law, nonetheless was pleased with the outcome. "What we ended up with was not all that bad," he told the B.A.R. "We've accomplished something."

First-term Supervisor Jose Medina cast the only vote against the ordinance. While he said he applauded Ammiano's concerns about nonprofit organizations being more accountable for the millions of federal, state, and city general fund dollars that are administered through many city departments, Medina said he felt the law put too much of a burden on nonprofits.

Supervisor Mark Leno, who did not testify on behalf of the proposed legislation at last week's finance committee meeting, disagreed. On Monday he argued that increased accountability will likely translate into sound economic practices that save nonprofit groups money. "It's critical ... to stretch every dollar. I'd like

to see this board pass this today," Leno told his colleagues.

Activists started pressing Ammiano for the legislation last year after they had problems gaining access to fiscal information at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF). If the ordinance is enacted it will affect SFAF, the city's largest HIV/AIDS nonprofit, and the third largest recipient of city funds at \$4.1 million.

SFAF is one of 43 nonprofit organizations in San Francisco receiving \$1 million or more annually in city support, for a total of about \$150 million, according to city Controller Ed Harrington. About 500 community groups receive some level of city funding; the majority of those take in less than \$100,000. The agencies provide services ranging from healthcare and social work to arts exhibitions and theater performances.

Representatives from many of those organizations testified at the Finance Committee meeting Teng chaired last Wednesday, speaking both for and against the sunshine legislation. Many offered ideas for new amendments

old of \$100,000 in city funding as one of the criteria for nonprofits' inclusion under the ordinance. Organizations receiving less than that amount would automatically be exempt.

Ammiano adamantly opposed the threshold idea, stating that "even a buck should be scrutinized." Setting a \$100,000 level would automatically exempt more than half the city's nonprofits, he pointed out. After Kaufman suggested an even higher \$500,000 threshold, the committee agreed to compromise with a \$250,000 threshold, and suggested that the level could be amended after a period of review, if necessary.

Ammiano was also troubled by the gutting of a grievance procedure designating a Sunshine Ordinance Task Force to be arbiter of disputes brought to it by members of the public who have complaints about a nonprofit organization's compliance or non-compliance with the ordinance. Instead, Kaufman proposed the city agencies contracting with the nonprofits be held responsible for settling disputes.

that would further weaken the legislation, which had already been compromised during months of negotiations between activists and nonprofits.

The task force, chaired to much acclaim by Tom Nolan of Project Open Hand, had spent months hammering out ordinance language agreeable to all sides, including SFAF.

Ammiano had expected Teng's committee, which includes Board President Barbara Kaufman and Supervisor Gavin Newsom, to either accept the draft legislation, or decline to pass it on for a vote by the full board. What he and others hadn't braced for were extensive new changes.

"My basic feeling is we came to the Finance Committee with a compromise that was honorable," said Ammiano. "Now, even that compromise is being compromised."

Prior to the hearing, one group calling itself San Franciscans United to Support Our Nonprofits — run out of the office of gay political consultant Robert Barnes, who has lobbied on behalf of the SFAF — presented a written list of amendment suggestions to the committee.

That group suggested an amendment that would significantly water down the legislation's impact, by setting a thresh-

"The reason all this started," said Jeff Sheehy, former president of the Harvey Milk Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Democratic Club, who worked hard to help formulate the legislation, "was that the city departments have not done a good job of monitoring their contracts. Now, we're back at beginning."

Sheehy noted that "it will be up to the individual who's having trouble accessing information or attending board meetings" to ensure city departments thoroughly investigate their claims. "It'll take a pretty determined individual, someone like Michael Petrelis."

It was Petrelis's dispute with the SFAF last year that led community activists to initiate a reform campaign aimed at making city-funded nonprofits more accountable to the public. After Petrelis disclosed supposedly confidential SFAF information, the organization and two of its affiliates retaliated by denying Petrelis services.

"In its amended form, it's obviously much less than where it started," said Sheehy. "Partly the compromises were the result of negotiations with nonprofits in the task force. The problem is, Supervisors Kaufman, Teng, and Newsom hijacked the process by offering new amendments at the last moment. It was unfair." ▼

Clinton

◀ page 1

legislation passed by Congress."

The order has no impact upon more than a million military employees, where lesbians and gays service members have second class status under the policy known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." The administration continues to defend that flawed policy in federal court.

The move is a logical, if belated, corollary to the administration's support of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). The White House did not endorse that bill when it was first intro-

duced, but did so more than a year later, in the fall of 1995.

The administration continued its pattern of stage-managing gay and lesbian announcements to minimize mainstream news coverage. The order came on a day when headlines were dominated by Pakistan's exploding nuclear weapons, the President losing a legal decision on executive privilege, and actor Phil Hartman found shot dead. Furthermore, notice was given late in the day, well past the deadline for television news. As a result, the only mainstream coverage was a short Associated Press article sent out at 6:30 p.m.

The action was unexpected

and caught gay insiders by surprise, so much so that the Human Rights Campaign did not have a news release prepared, and the *Washington Blade* did not get its typical pre-release exclusive.

Leonard Hirsch is president of GLOBE, the association of gay and lesbian federal employees. In an e-mail the evening of the announcement he said that they "are working on an explanation of the implications of this for federal workers."

"This is an important step," said Beth Isaacs, political director for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "All people should be able to work free from discrimination." ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

Luna Sea's month-long queer sex worker performance series begins today

by Liz Highleyman

Luna Sea Women's Performance Project will begin a month-long performance festival this evening (Thursday, June 4) to showcase the work of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and transsexual sex workers. Called "Disputed Territory: Sexplorations," it will include spoken word, dance, film, and a visual art exhibit.

According to festival organizers, the art and performances provide "a rare behind-the-scenes glimpse into both the sex industry and the lives of those who dwell within it." The series will attempt to fill a gap in discussions

about sex work by revealing "the story of those who survive and thrive in the industry as told in their own voices."

The solo performance piece *Daisy Anarchy ... Unchained* will be featured tonight through June 6. Anarchy has been a sex industry worker (street prostitute, call girl, and exotic dancer) for 16 years, and is a longtime activist and advocate for sex workers' rights.

On June 12-14, there will be a combined show featuring seven performers. Michelle Tea, instigator of the Sister Spit road tour, will perform her spoken word piece *True Tales of an Unhappy Hooker*. Male stripper Reno will perform an audience-participa-

tion erotic dance entitled *Exhibitionist Masturbating for Voyeurs and Joiners*. The line-up also features Gina Gold, Nicki Starr, Edaj, Kowalski, and Randan Kane.

The combined shows on June 19-21 will feature eight performers. Xtina Zinnen will present her multimedia work *Sleaze If You Please*. Lusty Lady union organizer Julia Query will show the promotional trailer for her documentary *Live! Nude! Girls! UNITE!* Other performers are Diana Dawn and Jay a.k.a. Jackie O, as well as Tea, Edaj, Gold, and Kane repeating their performances from last week.

The shows on June 25-26 will again feature Zinnen, Kowalski, Query, Dawn, and Kane. Also per-

forming will be Artemisia, presenting her spoken word piece *Into the Realm of the Senseless or A Sense of the Sacred*; Midori, performing *A Day in the Life of Fetish Diva Midori*; and author Carol Queen, presenting her theater piece *Peepshow*.

The performance festival is co-sponsored by the Exotic Dancers Alliance and the newly reissued *On Our Backs* magazine. This is

Luna Sea's third annual Pride Performance Festival. The series is also part of the Queer Cultural Center's Queer Arts Festival. ▼

Performances will be held at 8 p.m. on June 4-6, 12-14, 19-21 and 25-26. Luna Sea is located at 2940 16th Street, Suite 216C. Cost is \$10-15. For tickets call (415) 863-2989.

Oakland's L.J. Irving becomes first open transgender on NGLTF board

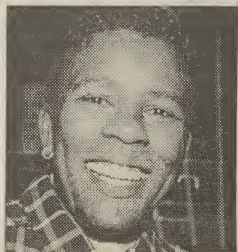
by Vicky Kolakowski

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) has named L.J. Irving of Oakland to its board of directors. Irving is the first openly transgender person appointed to the board of a national gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender civil rights organization.

Irving, a drug counselor and case manager at Jelani House in San Francisco, has a long history of activism. A former member of Supervisor Tom Ammiano's staff, she was a founding member of Lesbians and Gays of African Descent for Democratic Action (LGAD-DA). She has also been involved with the Harvey Milk Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Democratic Club and the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center.

"I'm really looking forward to increasing the visibility of people of color and to reaching out to those who can't afford the high ticket events," Irving told the B.A.R. She emphasized that she intends to advocate for people of color, youth, and people with low incomes.

"We need to reach out, instead of expecting them to come to us," she added, stating that she plans to work with NGLTF to meet people "in the clubs, in the churches, in the families."



L.J. Irving

Irving recently returned from her first board meeting, and was very impressed and enthusiastic about the group's openness to inclusion, commenting that "they're not some big national highbrow group." She sees the board becoming a new and very enthusiastic group, and noted that additional board members will be added this fall. One of her goals is to recruit board members under the age of 30.

Irving is reluctant to describe herself as a leader in the transgender community, because she feels that the Bay Area has so many "trailblazers" more worthy of recognition. "I have an enormous amount of humility, and pride for the trailblazers," she told the B.A.R. "I'm not in a position to take a lot of credit for leadership." Irving said that she would go to

local transgender leaders for guidance on transgender issues.

This humility is typical of Irving's approach, which she describes as being about service and not politics. "My goal is for people to be visible, empowered and connected."

"I'm not a leader, just a worker," Irving said. "I'm more like a doorman, holding the door open so that others can come in." ▼

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Haight Ashbury Free Clinic celebrates 31 years Friday

by Liz Highleyman

The Haight Ashbury Free Clinics (HAFC) will celebrate its 31st anniversary this Friday, June 5 with a benefit at the Palace Hotel, located at 2 New Montgomery Street. The evening will feature dinner, an auction, and an awards presentation. Award recipients will include the Junior League of San Francisco, Wells Fargo, and the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies. The Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to HAFC founder Dr. David E. Smith. Comedian Cheech Marin will serve as emcee, and musical entertainment will be

provided. The celebration will begin at 6 p.m.

The Haight Ashbury Free Clinics provide healthcare to more than 32,000 Bay Area residents. Evolving from a single volunteer-run clinic established in 1967 to provide healthcare to the growing number of newly arriving youth in the Haight neighborhood during the "summer of love" era, HAFC now comprises several sites that provide a range of services, including the Women's Needs Center, substance abuse services, and outreach to homeless youth.

The cost to attend the benefit is \$125. More information is available at (415) 561-5252. ▼

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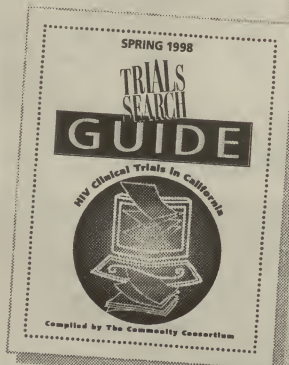
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Crypto, NTZ, HAART

by Mike Donnelly, ACT UP/
 Golden Gate Writers Pool

Cryptosporidium, the microscopic parasite that causes cryptosporidial diarrhea, is back in the news. San Francisco General Hospital has reported three new cases of cryptosporidiosis (crypto) in the last month, after having no diagnosed cases in the previous six months.

On May 6, the Antiviral Drug Advisory Committee of the FDA voted not to recommend approval of the antiparasitic drug Cryptaz™ (nitazoxnide, formerly known as NTZ™) licensed in the U.S. by Unimed, the best hope of a treatment for crypto. The FDA must make a decision on the recommendation by June 15, but approval seems unlikely.

Drug trials

The placebo-controlled study of NTZ from the AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG 336) accrued only 10 of 60 needed participants in one year and the study was closed on May 15, due to low enrollment. This is both good news and bad news. The good news is that there are fewer cases of crypto than in the past. The bad news is crypto is still here. The symptoms of diarrhea, cramps, nausea, and low-grade fever can be life-threatening to people with compromised immune systems.

Unimed's application to the FDA was based on three open label studies conducted by the company. The drug was studied in

doses of 500-2000 mg. The Advisory Committee did not find the information from these studies convincing. The company has stated that if they don't get a conditional approval from the FDA they will not continue to develop the drug for treatment of crypto.

Best advice

The parasite is carried in animal and human feces so people should avoid contact as much as possible. The United States Public Health Guidelines state "Modes of transmission include contact with infected adults and diaper-aged children, contact with infected animals, drinking contaminated water, and contact with contaminated water during recreational activities."

Dr. Carolyn Peterson, at San Francisco General Hospital, says, "The best way to prevent crypto is a point of use water filter. Don't travel without your own filter and don't trust bottled water in foreign countries." She cites the crypto outbreak in Las Vegas, which has state-of-the-art water treatment system, as proof that filtration doesn't always work. To be effective against crypto, the filters must remove particles 1mm in diameter. Also remember that chlorine in swimming pools does not kill crypto.

How do I get treatment?

In all three of the recent cases of crypto at San Francisco General, the patients have not been on Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy (HAART) (a.k.a. triple-drug therapy and cocktail therapy). Dr. Judith Aberg, a treating physician at San Francisco General, has instituted HAART for two of the crypto infections with no other treatment. One patient, who had a high viral load and low T-cells, says he is feeling better, but hasn't been in for follow-up.

Dr. Peterson states "People who have crypto should be on

HAART." She explains that in Peru adults who have measurable crypto in their stools don't get sick, but children who have the same levels do exhibit symptoms. "It appears adult immune systems are fighting the crypto, and children's immune systems aren't as developed."

(When asked about NTZ she says, "Do I think it works? No, I don't. But I wouldn't want to deny anyone access.")

Dr. Carl Fichtenbaum, Assistant Professor at Washington University in St. Louis and head of ACTG 336, states, "I have two recent patients with crypto. Primary therapy for my crypto patients is HAART and watching their nutrition like a hawk."

On the subject of NTZ he says, "I don't know the correct dose. We don't see any toxicity at 3000 mg. I don't think the company knows the correct dose." He goes on to say, "I think NTZ is a so-so drug. The data presented [at the FDA Advisory hearing] shows it works about as well as paramomycin."

Where to get NTZ

Unimed, the company that holds an exclusive license for the U.S., is continuing their compassionate use program, until they hear about approval from the FDA. They can be contacted at 1-800-864-6330. Your physician may apply for compassionate use. "The paperwork can be completed and faxed to us and the physician can get emergency IRB approval," assures Dr. Bob Dudley of Unimed. "The drug can be shipped within a week."

NTZ is being sold through the PWA Health Group, a buyer's club in New York. It currently has a supply and can be contacted at (212) 255-0520. Healing Alternative Foundation (HAF) in San Francisco also carries the NTZ and can be contacted at (415) 626-4053. ▼

Latino club

◀ page 19

city's Pride celebration.

"If he is going to San Jose to produce his own pride party," asks Bunch, "why is he complaining about Club Papi? Maybe he's not interested in a solution. Maybe he's interested in self-promotion."

"We've given Amodeo everything he's asked for," says Bunch, "and would like to put controversy to rest. We're all one community, and there's a way of working things out without exaggerating the situation. We're interested in solving problems and making people happy. It's supposed to be a happy day."

Ultimately, the controversy may boil down to business rivalries mixed with personal animosities.

"Club Papi is run by someone who's not Latin," says Audrey Joseph, the influential owner of San Francisco's Club Townsend and producer of Pride's huge KMEL/Pleasuredome Stage. In referring to Awad, who freely admits he's not Latino, Joseph not only sides with Amodeo, but includes strong words about Awad.

"Jamie and Michael had a partnership several years ago," notes Felix, "but they decided to go their separate ways. Jamie started doing his club in San Jose

and some larger parties here in SF, and Michael started Futura."

"I think it's awful they [Awad and his allies] squeezed out Amodeo, who goes out of the way to do good things for the community," says Joseph.

Rather than allowing people to live and let live, she fumes, "Awad tries to be the only action around. He pushes his weight around, and I don't like bullies."

Joseph points out that apart from being a club promoter, Awad is a sheriff's deputy who "flashes his badge" around and "comes off very macho."

"This is all about business," responds Awad, dismissing Joseph's complaints, and referring to some of her comments as "possibly libelous." He insists that in his role as a sheriff's deputy, his behavior is strictly professional.

"KMEL and Townsend are probably worried that the Latin Stage will take away from their stage. We're not in competition. Does anyone honestly believe everyone will stand in one place for eight hours? They'll go to all the stages. I don't anticipate 5,000 people on our little block staying there all day. They have options."

Witherington told the B.A.R., "I'm disappointed some club people are bringing all this negative attitude to Pride."

"It won't go unnoticed." ▼

Empress Connie dies

by Seraphina Langusto

Empress XVIII Connie (a.k.a. Cornell Garron) left us on May 23, 1998, to join the 14 other empresses and eight emperors already in the celestial court system.

Connie was one of San Francisco's most vivacious empresses. She loved to don gorgeous gowns and jewels and entertain her subjects. (As a muscular hospital worker, Cornell drove trucks and lifted heavy boxes.)

Connie was loved not only here but in the many courts across this country, where she traveled to both attend their functions and perform. She scorned the airlines and was fond of jumping into her Volkswagen Bug, grabbing a box of Kentucky Fried Chicken and some Cokes, and barreling off down the highway.

Connie became an Imperial Court fixture in 1976 when she helped Flame run successfully for empress. She attained the title of Imperial Princess on



Empress XVIII Connie

Flame's court in 1977 and later that year became Grand Duchess IV of San Francisco. Although she had an exciting year in this role, she had her sights set on a bigger prize.

Connie ran for empress a cou-

ple of times before being proclaimed Empress XVIII in 1983. She made history that year because her reign marked the first time that the San Francisco Imperial Court elected an emperor and empress concurrently. Although there were some adjustments, Tatoo Jim and Connie gave the city a wonderful 12 months.

Connie as her alter ego, Cornell Garron, was an accomplished cellist. He performed with the Oakland and Berkeley symphonies. In addition, he was a pianist and a harpist.

At her outgoing coronation ceremony, Connie gave a cello recital. She later said that this was one of the proudest moments of her life. She also gave a well-received cello recital to mark the 10-year anniversary of her reign.

Connie or Cornell, whoever you came to know or be friends with, was by all accounts a true and loyal friend and a great performer. Empress XVIII Connie will be missed but will long be heralded as one of San Francisco's more memorable royals. ▼

Sex change doc stumps police

'Dr.' Brown has unpleasant history in SF

by Neal Putnam
for Update

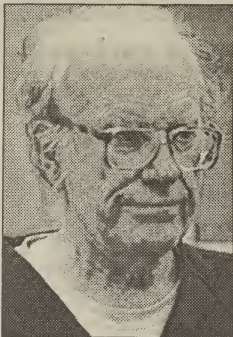
When police arrived at the Southern California home of former Dr. John Ronald Brown and found the amputated leg of a corpse, that was all they needed to arrest him.

Brown remains in the San Diego County Jail without bail after being charged with the murder of Philip Bondy, 80, whose leg was believed amputated in Brown's home. Bondy had gone to Brown for help, following a traffic accident in Tijuana in which he injured his knee.

Bondy was found dead in a National City motel room and the cause of death was gangrene. According to receipts found in Bondy's room, he paid Brown \$10,000 for the surgery. Deputy District Attorney Stacy Running said it's believed the amputation may have occurred in the bathtub of Brown's San Ysidro home because of the "gruesome scene" police found there Tuesday, May 26. Bloody towels, sheets, and a mattress were seized as evidence.

Brown is also charged with two counts of practicing medicine without a license in a second case, as well as unlawfully furnishing pain killers to Bondy after the surgery. Bondy is from New York City and recently flew here for a visit. How he met Brown is unknown, but the ex-doctor advertises his sex-change surgery in gay publications and had a web site on the Internet.

Brown lost his state license to practice medicine in 1977 for incompetence in sex-change surgeries in San Francisco. He continued to perform such surgeries in Mexico, however, and was sentenced in 1990 to three years in prison for practicing medicine without a license. Brown received his medical degree in 1947 from



Dr. John Ronald Brown

the University of Utah and had surgical residency training at medical centers in three states in the late 1940s.

"If you have the money, he'll do the surgery. He'll cut off your penis and make a vagina for you. These people are embarrassed when the surgeries are botched," said Running, adding that victims of his botched surgeries often did not come forward to authorities.

Brown sometimes used part of

the colon to create a vagina in his sex-change operations, according to testimony in his 1990 case. Brown also did breast and penis enlargements with silicone.

Grisly though that may be, Brown has supporters, and a number of people praised his sex-change surgery at his 1990 sentencing. Authorities found he had patient lists from all over the country. His license to practice medicine has also been revoked in Hawaii, Alaska, and in the Caribbean islands.

Running said Bondy did not need to have his leg amputated, but it was believed "the patient asked to have it done." Bondy called a friend from New York, a psychologist, who flew to San Diego after Bondy told him he had the surgery following a traffic accident. The friend discovered Bondy in great pain in his hotel room. The friend left to find help for Bondy, but found him dead in his hotel room when he returned, the prosecutor said.

"I've never seen anything so bizarre. This man should never have a surgical instrument again," said Running, calling him "an incredibly dangerous individual." ▼

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Pool party

by Jim Provenzano

Despite the valiant attempts of a few folks in the community to form a gay and/or lesbian water polo team, no such team has formed in San Francisco. One can only hope that will happen sometime in the next few years — just as soon as people stop cracking the joke about getting the horses into the pool.

Not having a team did not deter Bob Lenzi, who treks down to Los Angeles at least once a month to practice with the West Hollywood team. The 42-year-old started playing polo at 16 in high school in his native Stockton, and continued to play varsity at UC-Davis, all the while remaining unclear about his gay feelings, despite having one roommate frequently out him. Sometimes you don't have to be gay to have gaydar.

"I actually didn't come out officially until I was 27," Lenzi said of his many years as a deeply closeted jock; so deep that even he didn't know. "However, there is no doubt in my mind today that the camaraderie, the closeness (physical and emotional), and the chance to see other boys half-naked was a strong draw to sports for me." Inspiration for millions, no doubt.

Swimming and football also interested him, but water polo remained his favorite through college. "I only knew one other water

polo player that I played with to be gay," he said. "Although I'm sure there were others, but at that time I didn't really think I was gay and wouldn't have known what to look for."

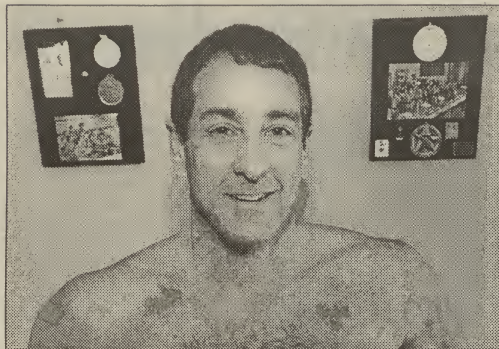
Perhaps herds of muscular men in Speedos?

Lenzi laughs. "I guess water polo is kind of a sexy sport, with all those strong lean bodies pulling and grabbing at each other all the time. A lot goes on under the surface. It has never been a great media event sport. Too much of the game takes place where the fans can't see." Perhaps more underwater footage would explain that mystery.

Lenzi's initiation to gay water polo came in San Diego in 1989. He met a fellow at a gay bar who told him about a gay team. "I've been involved ever since," he said with pride. With his experience in the game, Lenzi also ended up coaching for a while, and has remained a mentor to some of the newer people to the game.

Ball handling

Swimming, of course, is essential to cross-training for the sport, as are weight training and any type of activity that involves hand/eye coordination. Lenzi mentioned that water polo involves three fundamentals: swimming, ball handling, and a solid understanding of rules and strategy. The best players are very well-rounded in all three areas.



Bob Lenzi: "I guess water polo is kind of a sexy sport ... A lot goes on under the surface."

Which may explain why networks don't show more of the hunky sport. "The rules aren't common knowledge like major sports," Lenzi said. "Nobody cites water polo statistics."

Between treks to LAX, Lenzi practices with a 'straight' team in San Francisco. "Some of them know I am gay. Most just think I am 'older.' Their average age is about 25. The gay part is just not an issue here, but this is San Francisco."

Lenzi says water polo has been a predominately West Coast sport, so most of the big powerhouse teams come from California. "Stanford, UC Berkeley, USC, UCLA, UC Irvine, and UC San Diego have always had good teams, but lately some very fine teams have sprung up in other parts of the country as well."

Water polo is played with seven players for each team in the pool. The full team roster is up to 13, including a goalie. At Gay Games V, Lenzi mentioned that "they're allowing up to 17 players

per team, to accommodate more participants." Almost every larger city in the U.S. and Canada is sending a water polo team. The sport should be highly competitive, and for those who like their men wet and hunky, quite an event.

Lenzi considers Gay Games

"one of the best things to happen to the gay community. It sort of brought us to the end of the mainstream in one sense. It gave a lot of gay athletes an outlet they didn't have before, a chance to compete openly. A lot of them didn't have a chance because they were scared off by the macho sense of athletics."

This will be the third Gay Games for the multiple-medalist. Being older and openly gay, he said there's "no question that it's less stressful, even playing with straight guys. At the same time I don't make an announcement." Yet, when asked, he mentions his partner, Jeff.

Yet Lenzi admits he prefers an all-gay team, saying that unity "is that part of the camaraderie, and the social life in the locker room. It's a situation where, with an all-gay team, there are no problems," except perhaps a little friendly fire

GAY GAMES UPDATE

Martina supports international 'Outreach' donation campaign

by Nellie Voss and Paul van Yperen

This week Gay Games ambassador Martina Navratilova sent a letter to 100,000 prospective donors to launch a new American donation campaign for Gay Games Amsterdam 1998. A similar letter will be sent out soon throughout Europe.

In her letter Navratilova stresses the importance of donations for Gay Games; donations are especially needed for the Outreach Fund of Gay Games, which still lacks NLG 200,000 — about \$100,000. From the beginning, Gay Games Amsterdam had included in its Business Plan a program to invite 375 participants from non-western countries. Executive Director Marc Janssens announced at a press conference this week that so far enough funds have been collected to invite 313 participants. Among those participants are a church choir from South Africa and a soccer team from Brazil.

Partly due to the outreach activities, Gay Games Amsterdam 1998 will be welcoming participants from 64 countries including Bangladesh, El Salvador, Kirghizia, Ghana, China, Serbia, Montenegro, and Trinidad. This record number for Gay Games is likely to increase even more, if additional funding can be found.

San Francisco-based Levi Strauss is one of the sponsors of the outreach program, as are the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, many Dutch embassies, Amnesty International, HIVOS, X-Y, Mama Cash, Novib, and the Royal Dutch Airlines KLM, who will transport the participants.

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SEC overturns 'Cracker Barrel' ruling

by Bob Roehr

Shareholders must be allowed to vote on company employment policies that discriminate against gays and lesbians. The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) ruling on May 20 reversed their controversial 1992 decision that allowed the management of Cracker Barrel Old Country Store Inc. to block a shareholder vote on employment policy.

The long running saga began when Cheryl Summerville, a cook for Cracker Barrel for four years, was fired when the company adopted a policy to terminate all employees "whose sexual pref-

erences fail to demonstrate normal heterosexual values." The state of Georgia offered her no employment protection.

But the incident sparked an organized effort by shareholders, joined by pension funds in New York, California, and elsewhere, to change the company policy. They put forward a stockholder resolution. This tactic came to public prominence over environmental issues and business dealings with South Africa during the rule of apartheid. But Cracker Barrel management objected, and the SEC sided with management.

A federal court in New York struck down the SEC ruling, but an appeals court reversed that decision.

Advocates for shareholder rights kept up the pressure. Last fall the SEC proposed changes that would allow resolutions under what many saw as a crippling set of conditions. That brought only increased public furor.

"The public comment process yielded a lot of sentiment in favor of overturning it and we heeded that call," said SEC spokesman Chris Ullman. SEC Chairman Arthur Levitt Jr. confessed that the issue had "generated more passion" than any other during his tenure on the Commission. It voted 4-0 to reverse the earlier ruling.

"It is a very bright day, a very exciting opportunity," said Diane Bratcher, co-chair of the Wall

Street Project of the Community Lesbian and Gay Rights Institute of New York. The Project has been a leader in this fight. "With the repeal of Cracker Barrel, now shareholders can resume pressuring their companies for equal treatment for all of their employees, including their lesbian and gay employees."

This fall the Wall Street Project is going to press forward with shareholder resolution for about a dozen companies. "I can pretty much promise you we are going to go to Exxon Corporation," she said. They have approached the company for the last two years and it has used the Cracker Barrel opinion to block consideration.

It is "open season on corporate America," said Per Larson, the author of the best selling book *Gay Money*. It simplifies the process of bringing forward a shareholder resolution. Now, "Even a casual inquiry to a company will have a much more thunderous effect." The only danger he sees is a possible "trivialization" of the process if people abuse it.

Bratcher called on the lesbian and gay community to use not just their personal shares of stock, but also "their pension funds and retirement accounts" and their influence with foundations "to be a positive force for change."

According to Shelley Alpern, a senior research analyst with Franklin Research and Development Corp., a socially responsible investment firm that has been involved in this fight, "Individuals can follow which companies are getting proposals on this, and write letters and vote their proxies accordingly."

She cautions that getting the support of many mainstream mutual funds "is going to be an uphill battle. Management will often recommend against a proposal, and large institutional investors are generally reluctant to vote against management."

While the SEC decision gives the gay and lesbian community a tool to attack discrimination, it hands the same tool to all parties. "We should be prepared for the anti-gay right wing to use the same tactic, to try to disburse our energies," warns Alpern. ▼

Senate committee approves gay man for SBA post

by Bob Roehr

The Senate confirmed openly gay Fred P. Hochberg as deputy administrator of the Small Business Administration (SBA) on Thursday, May 21. The vote by acclamation came late in the night as part of a consent agreement that wrapped up all pending non-controversial nominations prior to the Memorial Day recess.

Nervous anxiety had played across David Smith's face as he and others from the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) waited for Hochberg's confirmation hearing to begin Thursday, May 14. He didn't know what to expect: President Clinton had nominated Hochberg to the number two position at the SBA last October, but the confirmation process had been delayed, ostensibly over questions of possible illegal political contributions.

Some, like Smith, feared the impasse was also due to Hochberg's sexuality and his prior service on the board of directors of HRC and other gay organizations.

Hochberg was a superb candidate for the SBA: his mother had fled Nazi Germany as a child and settled in New York. In 1951, the same year Fred was born, she founded the mail order company Lillian Vernon with \$2,000 received as wedding gifts. The lad helped out with the company while growing up, and officially joined it in 1975 after completing his MBA at Columbia University. He advanced to chief operating officer and helped to grow Lillian Vernon from 60 employees to

more than 1,400. Sales have reached \$250 million.

It quickly became apparent at the proceedings Thursday that bouquets would be tossed this day, not brickbats. Senator Kit Bond (R-Missouri), chairman of the Committee on Small Business, quickly laid the contribution issue to rest.

The Democratic National Committee had erred in recording one contribution as being from Hochberg when it was from another person. And it erred in reporting one of Hochberg's contributions as "hard" money when it should have been recorded as "soft" money. Those distinctions affect contribution limits and how the money can be spent.

Bond lay blame for the delay at the door of the White House which "finally granted access to some of the documents the Committee sought to review." Those documents and conversations with Hochberg had answered the committee's questions. "He had no intention whatsoever of violating the law," Bond concluded.

Ranking Democrat John Kerry (Massachusetts) was "appreciative" of Bond's cooperation on moving the nomination. He thanked Hochberg for his willingness "to give up privacy and income" for public service.

New York Republican Senator Alfonse D'Amato offered lead-off testimony in support of Hochberg. He was followed by Rep. Michael Forbes (R-New York), a regional SBA administrator under the Bush administration, and current SBA Administrator Aida Alvarez.

Committee members individually found praise for the nomi-

nee, and then used the opportunity to push the Clinton administration in areas where they found it lacking. Members from both sides of the aisle called for more resources for technical assistance for small businesses. Senator Dale Bumpers (D-Arkansas) hoped that Congress would increase the appropriation to \$30 million, nearly double what the administration proposed.

Later that afternoon the Committee unanimously approved Hochberg's nomination, 18-0, and sent it to the full Senate for confirmation. The lingering question is whether or not some extreme right wing senator will use the rules of the Senate to block a vote by the full body, as they have done with James Hormel's nomination as ambassador to Luxembourg. ▼

BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 222686

The following person(s) are doing business as Phone Works. 268 Hamilton St. San Francisco, CA 94134. This business is conducted by an individual signed Daniele Diaz. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on 05/08/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 05/08/98.
MAY 14, 21, 28 JUNE 4, 11, 1998

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 221823

The following person(s) are doing business as D.B. Images. 512 Sanchez St. San Francisco, CA 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Galen F. Cook. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on 04/02/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 04/02/98.
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The following person(s) are doing business as 2001 INFORMATION SYSTEMS CONSULTING. 15 Teresita Blvd. Unit #12. San Francisco CA 94127. This business is conducted by an individual signed Robert L. Wucher. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names

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STATEMENT FILE NO. 222877

The following person(s) are doing business as Desertion of The Grave. 35 Beatrice Ln. #4. San Francisco, CA 94124. This business is conducted by an individual signed Antwon Jones. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on 05/18/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 05/18/98.
MAY 21, 28 JUNE 4, 11, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 222915

The following person(s) are doing business as Six of One Services. 242 Mt. Vernon Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Cindy Six. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 05/19/98.
MAY 28, JUNE 4, 11, 18, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 223177

The following person(s) are doing business as Michael's Cleaner. 2235 Polk St SF CA 94109. This business is conducted by an husband and wife signed Pak. Song Yong. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 6/1/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 6/1/98.
JUNE 4, 11, 18, 25, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 223123

The following person(s) are doing business as Oakes and Associates. 5 Corbett Ave, SF, CA 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Robert Oakes. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business

name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 5/29/98.
JUNE 4, 11, 18, 25, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 222951

The following person(s) are doing business as Flower Power Landscaping and Gardening. 579 Noe. St SF, CA 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Benjamin Todd Kelley. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on 05/20/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 5/20/98.
JUNE 4, 11, 18, 25, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 223062

The following person(s) are doing business as Gay Places.Com. #48 Cayusa Ave. SF., CA 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Michael Green. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on 5/26/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 5/27/98.
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STATEMENT FILE NO. 223149

The following person(s) are doing business as The National Joy Band. 1224 Castro St. SF, CA 94114-3232. John S. Bello. 3819 Howard Ct South SF, CA 94080. William B Young 389 Howard Ct. South SF, CA 94080. Keith E. Lyle. 3819 Howard Ct. South SF, CA 94080. Kevin C. Larson 2959 24th St. SF, CA 94110. Lawrence T. Heaton. 620 Showtell St. SF., CA 94110. This business is conducted by an General Partnership. Signed Keith E. Lyle. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on 6/01/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 6/01/98.
JUNE 4, 11, 18, 25, 1998

State races

◀ page 14

bilingual education) passed easily, though lawsuits to halt its implementation were being filed Wednesday morning. The other hotly contested measure, Prop. 226 (union dues use) lost 53% to 47% — a big victory for labor. Propositions 219 (ballot measures), 220 (consolidating courts), 221 (judicial officers), 222 (murder sentences), and 225 (term limit labeling) all won. However, voters defeated 223 (school administration

costs) and 224 (state contracting).

California's current state Treasurer Matt Fong edged out (22% to 19%) millionaire businessman Darrell Issa of San Diego. Fong must defeat incumbent U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer in November to take her seat. Boxer, a favorite target of the GOP, is now seen as a slight favorite to retain her spot. In Orange County's 46th Congressional District, Robert Dornan (R), in a comeback attempt, won his party's nomination for his former House seat and will face incumbent Democrat Loretta Sanchez. ▼

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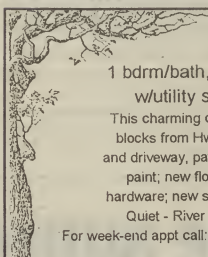
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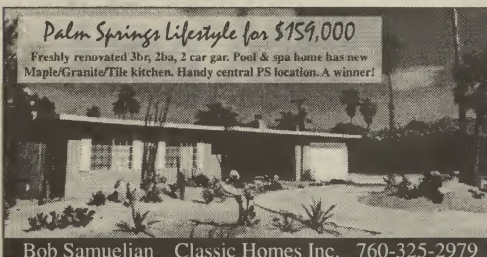
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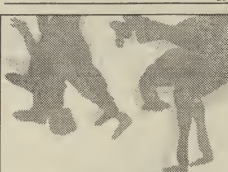
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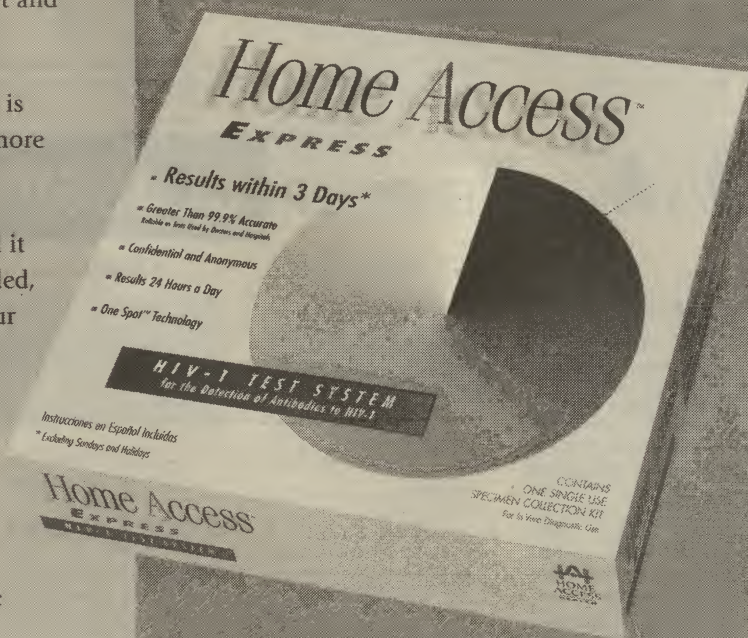
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In the Navy
Gay witchhunt in D.M.W.
Greer's 'Burning Blue.'

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Rasping at straws
Single gay legend Harvey
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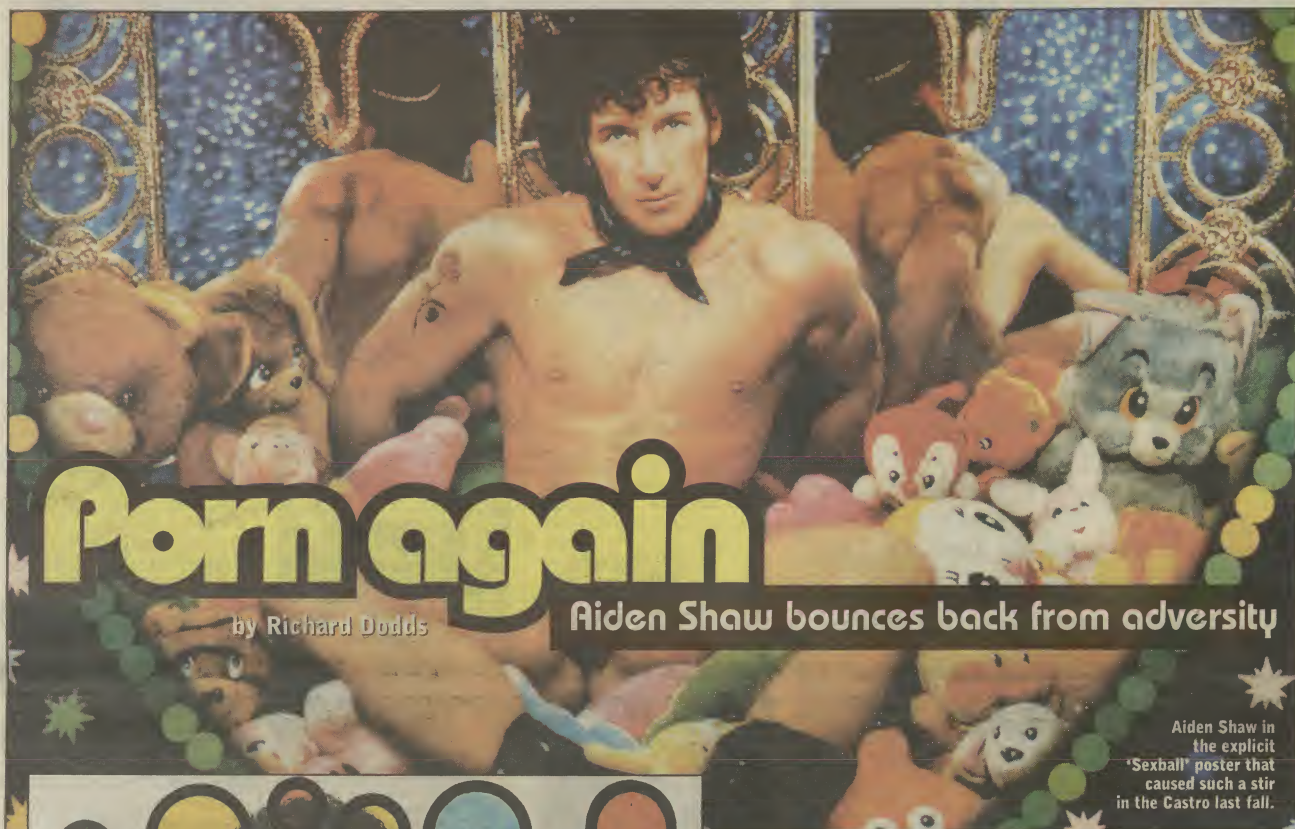
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 28 • No. 23 • 4 June 1998



Porn again

by Richard Dodds

Aiden Shaw bounces back from adversity

Aiden Shaw in
the explicit
'Sexball' poster that
caused such a stir
in the Castro last fall.

Pierre et Gilles

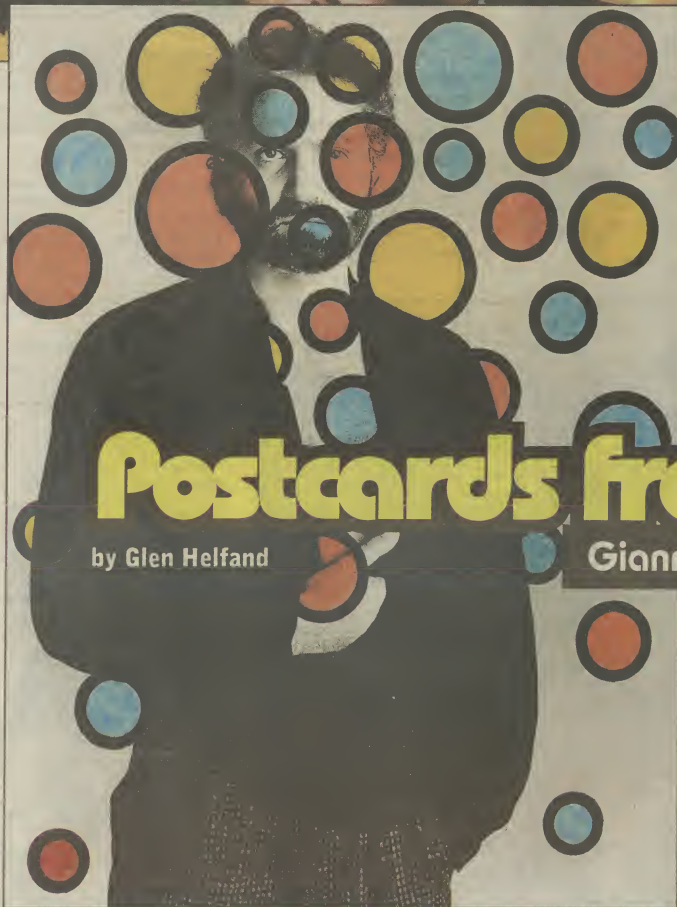
This is a story of extravagant sex, serious illness, unexpected love, a horrific accident, and a silver lining. It's the story of the recent life of Aiden Shaw, former prostitute, sexual outlaw, musician, author, and reborn porn star who these days is just looking for a little tenderness.

As his first porno video in more than four years is nearing release, Shaw has been taking his first steps without crutches since a recent accident crushed his leg and very nearly his life. That video, he said recently from England, "is a million miles from anything I know now." Ironically, he had made the video, set for summer release, for the San Francisco-based Hot House Entertainment to prove to himself that, at 31 and rebounding from AIDS, he was still hot.

"I had felt neutered, that I wasn't allowed to have sex," a healthy-looking Shaw said during our first conversation in December, while he was visiting San Francisco. "The fear of being infectious is so deep. How can you feel sexy when you know you are infectious?"

But not even his lowest moments under the thumb of the disease prepared him for what his life has been like since he was struck by a car outside Brussels on East-

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Postcards from the dead

by Glen Helfand

Gianni Versace's 'The Art of Being You'

Based on the title of this big colorful book, you might think that *The Art of Being You* (Abbeville Press, \$75) is the first in a new pop-lit genre: coffee table self-help. And being by and about the late designer Gianni Versace, one might expect it to offer secrets as how to achieve his undeniably fabulous lifestyle, one bursting with supermodels, boytoys, celebrities, fabulous art, haute couture and lavish villas. In one of the book's brief essays, former *Interview* magazine editor Ingrid Sischy even suggests that Versace was a man who believed in the medicinal powers of fun and creativity and that the title is "a celebration of creativity, individualism, and freedom."

The book, part project by Versace himself and part fond memorializing by friends and colleagues, does offer a window into the designer's brightly-hued world, but poring through the pages is a surprisingly distant and uninvolved experience. Essentially a posthumous scrapbook, *The Art of Being You* juxtaposes paintings, sculptures and collages from Versace's substantial art collection (he's billed as a "modern-day Medici" on the dust-jacket flap) with high-end fashion sketches and photography (by Richard Avedon and Bruce Weber) of his wild, vibrant work. This strat-

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by Roberto Friedman and Porno Polly

The way that Out There readers gobble up every little scrap of tawdry gossip we procure for them, you'd think there were a gossip deficit around here. You'd think the modern American homosexual were gossip-deprived.

You know as well as we do that nothing could be further from the truth. Every last queen we know is just bursting with salacious stories about their nearest and dearest. Let's face it, gossip is social currency, and the supply of stories about citizens and their sex lives is — you should pardon the expression — bottomless. But all of this item-placing does take its toll.

So let's take a break from looking under the mattresses of local celebrities (an oxymoron?) and set our sights further afield. In keeping with our literary section this week, we'll lead off with gossip we found in hot-off-the-press books. So sue us (and the publishers below).

Automotive news

We know, we know, we and our ilk, our paparazzi brethren, killed **Diana**. But maybe the worst aspect of "the People's Princess" tragic death has been the hagiography that has come to characterize her every mention. Let's face it, Diana was no saint, and a new book just out from St. Martin's Press, *The Real Diana* by

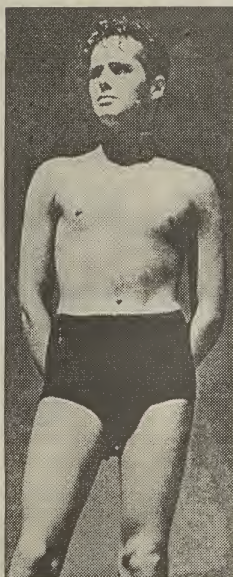
Lady Colin Campbell, is full of juicy stories that reveal Di's darker side.

It seems that in her youth, if you crossed her, she'd be sure to fuck with your car. "On one occasion, when a friend refused to lend her a car, she glued its locks solid," Lady Colin helpfully informs. "On another occasion, when someone in a house party slighted her, she got out of her bed in the middle of the night, unscrewed the top of his car's gas tank, and poured water down it, nearly ruining the engine."

We also hear in the late Lady Di's own words about her taste in blokes: "I like them **hunky and chunky**," and, "I love a man in a uniform."



Out There



Rorem at 18.

Musical notes

Good news for gossipists: *The Paris Diary* and *The New York Diary* of **Ned Rorem** — composer, author, and eminent gossipist of the classical music world — has just been re-released in a De Capo Press paperback with a new introduction by **Richard Howard**. Some cute bits contained within

seem timeless:

"**Lenny Bernstein** once said, 'The trouble with you and me, Ned, is that we want everyone in the world to personally love us, and of course that's impossible: you just don't meet everyone in the world.'"

"Finally heard **Liberace**. Extraordinary, his fingerwork! He plays all the right notes wrong."

On drug-addicted friends: "**Jacques F  vrier** said, 'Oh, to think what they could have done if they hadn't started taking dope; how the talent deteriorates!' But is it not just because they were the kind of people who desired to take drugs that they were able to do the wonderful things they've done? We are what we are and because of it we do what we do."

When a "stringy-haired girl" opines to Rorem that "One's public is one's friends," he muses, "This is certainly not true. **Joan of Arc**, burning at the stake, had plenty of public who were not her friends."

Rorem's first boss, composer **Virgil Thomson**, tells him presciently, "Journals must be kept for their gossip value, since in any case the editor will cut all the sentimental parts." *Shnip!*

Reference this

As in **Fran Lebowitz's** classic formulation, we read promiscuously. We live to hoist stacks of hardcover thickies in both hands and thus "pump books." Our second favorite reference book is **Bartlett's Familiar Quotations** (our first favorite is **Robert's Rules of Order**) because we just love the spectacle of witty people being pithy, and here they all are from history. Great words make great copy, without our having to stroke anyone's ego to get it.

Suddenly there's a profusion of books full of gay quotations, and for us they are as much fun as paint-by-numbers: just supply the boldface names, and they color in the rest. BAR contributor **Brandon Judell's** *The Gay Quote Book* has just been brought out from Plume, and it contains such immortal lines as this from advice columnist **Ann Landers**: "I had no idea so many people in the United States and Canada were tying each other up."

John Erich & Gerry Kroll's *Gay Sex Quotes* from Alyson, meanwhile, is chock-full of famous people spouting off about sex. Ever hear golden boy **Leonardo DiCaprio** on homosex? "I saw some major homosexual activity outside my friend's balcony when I was 5," says Leo. "To this day it's an imprint on my mind."

Of course, who better to run at the mouth about sex but a paid professional? That's why the best sound-bites in *Gay Sex Quotes* are from those gosh-dern porn stars:

"I have yet to discover a gymnasium steam room that doesn't smell at least a little of come." — Porn star **Chip Daniels**

Jeff Stryker on the best-selling dildo made in his image: "They added nothing in width from the mold from my dick, but

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Mold model Jeff Stryker

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THEATRE



"Happy birthday, Bobby!" Metropolitan Community Theatre presents Stephen Sondheim's musical *Company*.

Metropolitan Community Theatre Keeping good 'Company'

by Richard Dodds

After the final "Alleluia" was sounded, it was time for "Bobby baby, Bobby booby." Evening services were over at the Metropolitan Community Church, the pulpit transformed into a musical-comedy stage, and the cast of "Company" was soon singing about the sorry-grateful world of relationships.

The Stephen Sondheim musical, opening this week, is the fourth annual musical presented at the church, but it marks the beginning of a new program that has established the only community theater in the Castro. *Company* is being presented by the Metropolitan Community Theatre, a group with connections to the church but with its own budget and board of directors.

"We want the theater to appeal beyond these four walls," said Joe McMurray, chairman of the theater board. "And we don't want to keep it just in the gay or church community. We want this to be a Bay Area opportunity."

Auditions for *Company* were publicized citywide, and the cast of 14 is about evenly split between MCC members and those with no prior connections to the church. Scott Lee, who is playing Harry, read about the auditions in *Calboard*. "I've been in love with the show for over 20 years," he said, "and the chance to even audition was great. A friend said, 'If you don't like the people, you can always leave.'" He stayed.

According to director Loretta Carlton, all of the men in the cast are gay, while all but one of the women are straight. "But the togetherness has been wonderful," she said. "This is a very physical cast."

There is also considerable diversity in the theatrical backgrounds of the cast and creative team. Costuming, for example, is being handled by MCC founding member and vintage clothing hobbyist Lynn Jordan ("I'm just an old drag queen") working on his first show with the young college-trained Rian Tiernan ("I'm the one who does the sewing").

Fresh faces, old pros

Several in the cast are appearing on stage for the first time, while others have long lists of professional credits. Ken Muse, who is making his acting debut as David, said he wanted "to test the waters in theater." But Jean Mazzei, play-

ing the reluctant bride Amy, built a considerable resume in dance, choreography, and musical theater in the Midwest and most recently in Mount Shasta. "But I'm not that well-known in the Bay Area," she said, "and I wanted to do some acting and singing here." She also stepped in as choreographer when the original choreographer departed.

For others, the theater program has provided an opportunity to return to passions deferred. McMurray, the board chairman, is playing Bobby, the musical's central character, who faces his 35th birthday as the only one in his group still without a mate. Before moving to San Francisco in 1986, McMurray had studied acting in New York and had done summer stock. "It was too much for too little," he said. But when he was cast as the emcee in *Cabaret* at MCC two years ago, he was gripped again by the theater bug. The church also got a new member in the process.

Carlton, the director, thought she had left theater behind when she moved to San Francisco 12 years ago. Back in Indiana, where she taught high school drama, she had directed dozens of shows at the school and in summer stock. But when she directed *Godspell* at MCC in 1995, the flame was relit.

For musical director Bob Crocker, theater at MCC has meant a broadening of his musical tastes. His background is in classical and choral music, and as the church's musical director, he works with three choirs. But with *Company*, he is making sure the cast and nine-piece orchestra are in step with Sondheim.

"For me, good music is good music," Crocker said. "Besides, putting together a worship service is a lot like doing a musical. You have to make room for emotion, and there are thoughts to be expressed. The big difference is in the lighting."

Speaking of lighting, there are now stage lights installed in the firmament of the sanctuary. And during the run of the show, religious services will take place within a false proscenium being constructed for the musical. As the theater program grows, more improvements are planned. "It's not a perfect room for theater," Crocker said, "but it's the room we have."

According to producer Dana Topping, *Company* is budgeted at \$12,000 — the amount that the box office will generate if the

show plays to 60 percent capacity during its three-weekend run. Except for a lone piano accompanist, everyone associated with the production volunteers.

In the fall, the Metropolitan Community Theatre is planning to produce its first non-musical, with *Deathtrap*, *The Fifth of July*, *Equus* and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* under consideration. "We do have a commitment in the long run to present gay theater," McMurray said, "but we're also interested in traditional theater."

So far there haven't been any complaints from parishioners about the kinds of theater planned for their sanctuary. "I would not say this is a prudish congregation," said Crocker, who has been with the church for 11 years. "But gay people are a tough audience, even for church. They just don't want to be bored." ▼

Company will have performances at the Metropolitan Community Church through June 20. Tickets are \$10-\$20. Call 865-2750.

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'Ballad of Little Mikey's Mark Savage No whining

by Richard Dodds

There is a song in *The Ballad of Little Mikey* that theater critics often single out for praise. In "Oh Mom, Oh Dad," the title character nervously reveals to his parents that he is gay. "Heart-rending," wrote the critic in the *Los Angeles Times*.

But while there are many moments that are autobiographical in Mark Savage's musical, opening this week at the New Conservatory Theatre, this quintessential gay rite of passage is not one of them. "Actually, when I turned 17, my mother told me that she thought I was gay," Savage said. "After I gave her a look of shock, we both smiled and that was that. I kind of feel I missed some agony."

Perhaps that's why another critical consensus has been that

in 1994 at a small gay theater in Los Angeles and grew into a local phenomenon. It's been seen in half a dozen other cities since then, though it seems late in arriving in San Francisco. "This is the kind of show that needs a certain kind of theater, one with a dedicated gay audience," Savage said. "But straights who see it often call it a crossover piece."

There is a number in the show, however, that usually raises eyebrows. Titled "Tap" and featuring the cast members in their underwear, it focuses on anonymous sex in a public restroom during a pre-AIDS flashback. At this moment, the *L.A. Times* critic was not amused.

"But the song shows the whole cycle guys go through," Savage said, "from confusion to shock to diving in to taking stock to vowing to move on."

One number in the show focuses on anonymous sex in a public restroom — a pre-AIDS flashback.

Little Mikey is a "feel-good" musical as it traces Mikey's journeys through gay life from the late '70s to the present, as he explores coming out, sex, political activism, and a long-term relationship. "There is no whining," Savage said during a recent interview. "There is no, 'Oh, poor me.'"

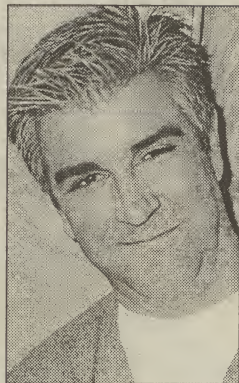
Savage wrote the book, lyrics and music for *Little Mikey*, and the Los Angeles resident is in San Francisco to direct the first Bay Area production of the show. "I wanted the San Francisco production to be right," Savage said. "I'm trying to get some New York investors to see this production, and I've seen it at other theaters that were just horrendous."

Little Mikey, Savage's debut playwriting effort, opened quietly

In the musical, Mikey does move on, into a rocky relationship that is still together at the final curtain. Savage is now working on a musical that has Mikey and his lover as the first gay couple to get married in Hawaii. "It's not just about being able to get married," Savage said, "but also about how losing our out-law status can mean losing some of our freedom to experiment."

All in the family

Savage, 39, has been coupled himself for the past two years. His lover is in advertising, and when he's not focusing on his *Mikey* projects, Savage works at his mother's children's talent agency in Los Angeles. "She's like Mama Rose with a happy ending," Savage said, referring to the stage-struck mother in *Gypsy* who pushes her reluctant children into show business.



Mark Savage

When a touring edition of *Mame* starring Celeste Holm passed through Detroit some 30 years ago, Savage's mother landed her young son a small part — and a ticket out of there for the family. Savage did more *Mames* with Angela Lansbury, Jane Russell, Dorothy Lamour, and Ann Miller, but finally got sick of it all when he turned 19 in a poorly received production of *The Sound of Music* starring Florence Henderson.

He wound up studying musical composition at UCLA, and then worked for a decade as an agent for songwriters. That too lost its luster, but the experience was "like a very long songwriting workshop. I learned all the do's and the don'ts," Savage said. "Now I want to push the musical theater form into new areas, but I don't know if I've found my voice yet."

Working for his mother has given him the chance to explore. "She is still completely stage-struck, and she's very generous with time off," Savage said. "She calls *Mikey* her grandson. She really wants to have a Broadway opening, and at some point I have to give her that." ▼

The Ballad of Little Mikey: The Birth of an Activist will run at the New Conservatory Theatre through July 18. Tickets are \$16 and \$20. Call 861-8972.

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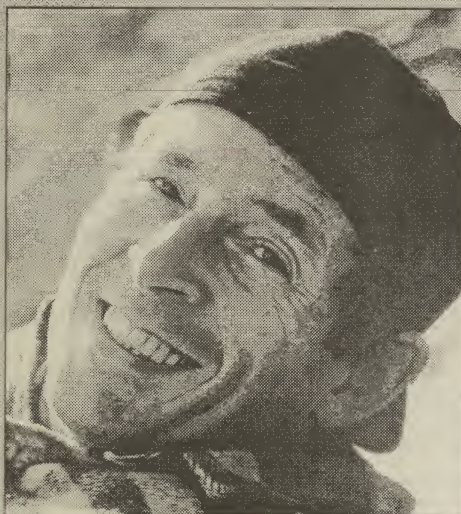
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FILM

Back from the brink



Paul Monette: The Brink of Summer's End is an intimate film portrait of the late gay writer. Filmmaker Monte Bramer explores Monette's life and work, from his New England childhood until his death from AIDS in 1995. The film plays the Castro Theatre Wed.-Thurs., June 10-11. Call 621-6120 for info. ▼

THEATRE

'Burning Blue's D.M.W. Greer Military maneuvers

by Martin Merle

Ten years ago, playwright D.M.W. (David) Greer told me the gist of what has become *Burning Blue*, a story of four U.S. Navy fliers who become the subject of a homosexual witch-hunt by the military. Greer's play was a theatrical success in London, South Africa, Tel Aviv, Los Angeles, and opened last night at the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre in San Francisco. How did a nice boy from Sausalito get a play produced in London, much less Tel Aviv and South Africa? We spoke recently in Los Angeles.

D.M.W. Greer: Well, actually I fleshed it out — put everything I'd been through in the Navy down on paper, and developed that into a play in 1991 [before the sham of Clinton's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."]

In '92, my friend Madeline Homan suggested that she show the play to her husband, New York and Boston stage director John Hickok, who read it and loved it. He gave me great advice on how to shape it, which was really important to me. He understood what I wanted to express completely, and ended up directing the London and LA companies of *Burning Blue*, as well as this production here. John and I held a reading of the play in New York in March '93, and though it generated a lot of attention, nothing happened until a year later, when we had our second reading. I was approached by a producer friend of mine, Gerald Armin, who had been to the N.Y. reading and suggested something that I jumped at: "Come to London, we'll do it on the Fringe!" The Fringe is like Off Broadway. That was only the first step, because once I got there, I had to pitch the play to a number of Fringe theaters, and was very excited when the Artistic Director Dan Crawford of The King's Head Theater accepted the play.

Martin Merle: Tell me about the London production.

I couldn't have asked for a better cast. One was Irish, three English, one Norwegian, one from Scotland, the last cast member was the lone American among them. Do you know, you could not detect that these people weren't all American. The talent in England is incredible, and I was so fortunate having these gifted actors bring the play completely to life. One of the most rewarding aspects of this whole experience is how the actors in each production have understood the story that I



Burning Blue playwright D.M.W. Greer

want to tell.

Did you have early favorable reviews in London, or was it word of mouth?

When we first opened at Kings Head, Nicholas DeJongh of the Evening Standard gave us a rave, which completely surprised me because he is "the" theater critic in London. Perhaps a little prematurely, we kept the box office open late to accommodate the crowds that we thought would storm the theater ... and nothing! For 11 days, nothing! Then, on the twelfth day, it hit, and we were sold out every night for 7 weeks. I was at the theater every night, not quite believing what I was seeing. After two months, we moved to The Theatre Royal, Haymarket, and ran almost three months there, to a nearly packed house.

How did the Tel Aviv production come about?

Odi Ashkenazi, a very talented young director from Tel Aviv, saw the play at the Haymarket and approached me to secure the rights to do it in Hebrew at The Beit-Lessin Theater. I'd seen a production he'd directed at a small theater in West London and was impressed, so I agreed to move forward with him on that production.

I thought it was good, very energetic and inventively staged. I thought the director was brave to do it in what is a militaristic and phobic culture (when I say phobic, I mean Israelis are phobic about everything), and I was moved by the passion he felt for it. I'd have cast it somewhat differently, but he understood the play, as did his actors.

Then it went to Cape Town and Johannesburg.

The South African production was wonderful, and Kevin Otto, who played the lead, Lieutenant Dan Lynch, there, is repeating his role in San Francisco, which he also did in Los Angeles.

Kevin is one of the best actors I have ever seen in movies or theater. He has such presence and ease on stage. Talk about handsome, I could eat him with two spoons. The whole cast is wonderful.

DANCE

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Men Dancing X features a premiere by Gary Palmer for guest artists from El Ballet Nacional del Perú; capoeira master Marcelo Pereira of Brazil Dance Revue; Hawaiian hula master Patrick Makuakane and the company Na Lei Hulu I Ka Wekiu; ballet dancer Michael Kruzich; Robert Moses; and Stephen Pelton. Thurs.-Sat., June 4-6 at 8 p.m. at the Cowell Theater, Fort Mason. (Friday night is a benefit for Until There's A Cure Foundation). Call 441-3687; for the benefit, call (408) 293-5665. ▼

I'm really happy with them. You can have the best story going, but without coherent, inspired direction and talented actors, it's just words on paper.

About the nudity: *Burning Blue* features beautiful bodies, but the actors are presented tastefully.

Yes. Both male and female. It's not meant to be gratuitous, rather it's there to support the drama.

The fact is men, particularly in the environment of the military, expose themselves to each other in everyday life. It's not always about sex. I didn't want to shy away from it, as it's organic to the piece. ▼

D.M.W. Greer's *Burning Blue* runs through July 5 at the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, 620 Sutter St. Call 474-8800.

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Classically Independent Film Festival Declarations of independence

by Will Shank

From June 5-9, the Castro Theatre will host the Dockers Khakis Classically Independent Film Festival, which will include some of the finest early work of major filmmakers, as well as new films from the 1998 Sundance Film Festival. A series of short films will precede many of the features, and a highlight of the festival will be personal appearances by actor Sam Rockwell and the Queen of the Indies, Parker Posey. Synopses of selected films follow:

Friday, June 5 at 7 p.m.

The Player, written and directed by Robert Altman

In what may be his last great film (if *Ready to Wear* and *Kansas City* are any indication of a trend), Altman created a creepily dark exposé of the film industry itself. Almost everyone in Hollywood appears either as himself or someone else in *The Player*, including Whoopi Goldberg, Greta Scacchi, Dina Merrill, Fred Ward, Buck Henry, Peter Gallagher, and as the incredibly amoral lead character, Tim Robbins. As the sinister plot unfolds within the brilliant swirl of Altman's overlapping narrative, the viewer wonders if anyone in Movieland has a soul. Apparently not.

Saturday, June 6 at 1 p.m.

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's



Jack Nicholson and Louise Fletcher in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*

Nest, directed by Milos Forman

Milos Forman, always a skilled director (*Hair*, *Amadeus*), respectfully translated the Ken Kesey novel to the screen with a perfect cast. One of the two great screenplays that ask the question "Who's crazy here?" (the other being *King of Hearts*), this film earned Jack Nicholson his first Oscar as a scheming mental ward inmate. And as the evil gatekeeper, Louise Fletcher (who also won an Academy Award) made Nurse Ratched a household name. Berkeley producer Saul Zaentz will appear in person at the Castro to receive well-deserved accolades for this film. Louise Fletcher and Christopher Lloyd (whose first film this was) are also expected to appear.

Sunday, June 7 at 2:30 p.m.

Diner, directed by Barry Levinson

Levinson's first film, in 1982,

foreshadows greater things to come. It is as small and heartwarming as his *Avalon* was rather large and heartwarming. Basically an East Coast version of George Lucas's *American Graffiti*, with the Baltimore kids in coats and ties instead of California Casual, *Diner* introduced the young Ellen Barkin and Paul Reiser to the Silver Screen. The appealing cast of ensemble players also includes winning performances from the young Mickey Rourke, Kevin Bacon, Tim Daly, Steve Guttenberg, and Daniel Stern. In Levinson's misty-eyed look back to his youth, Baltimore's funky Fells Point neighborhood glows with the same nostalgic 1960s magic as Lucas's Marin County.

Sunday, June 7 at 9:15 p.m.

sex, lies, and videotapes, written and directed by Steven Soderbergh

When Steven Soderbergh's first film was released in 1989, no one had ever seen anything like it. Pregnant pause, and a haunting soundtrack by Cliff Martinez fill the deliberate gaps in the brilliant screenplay by Soderbergh in this tale of four characters in Baton Rouge getting in touch with their — and each others' — sexuality. No one could have then guessed that it would be the peak of the careers of many of the principals. The director has never quite matched the promise of this early work. As the inhibited, beautiful Ann, Andie MacDowell has never



Peter Gallagher, Laura San Giacomo, Andie MacDowell, and James Spader in Steven Soderbergh's *sex, lies, and videotape*.

been more natural or appealing. James Spader plays the saintly Graham, a man with a videocam and a secret. Laura San Giacomo and Peter Gallagher round out the quartet as the amoral, adulterous duo who deserve each other, in a Pinteresque dark comedy of manners that created a whole new genre in film.

Monday, June 8 at 9:15 p.m.

Drugstore Cowboy, directed by Gus Van Sant; written by Van Sant and Daniel Yost

Director Van Sant and his leading man Matt Dillon have now made two masterpieces together: *Drugstore Cowboy* and *To Die For*. Based on an autobiographical novel by convict James Fogle, *Cowboy* takes an amazingly clear-eyed view of the seedy side of life in Van Sant's native Portland. Dillon and Kelly Lynch are excellent as junkies who do whatever is necessary to get their drugs. And Van Sant, in his second feature in 1989, places himself squarely in the land of Hollywood success from his perch in the Pacific Northwest.

Tuesday, June 9 at 7 p.m.

Desperately Seeking Susan, directed by Susan Seidelman

Delightfully quirky when it

was released in 1985, *Desperately Seeking Susan* now seems curiously dated and self-consciously hip. Based on a most unlikely premise of mistaken identity between a suburban housewife and an urban hipster, the movie is memorable mostly as the film debut of young Madonna.

Tuesday, June 9 at 9:15 p.m.

The Brother From Another Planet, directed by John Sayles

John Sayles, one of the most original directors of our time, hit the jackpot with *Brother from Another Planet* (1984). In his fantastic screenplay about a mute alien who finds himself in Harlem, Sayles explores the mystique of silence that has fascinated filmmakers from the makers of *Johnny Belinda* to *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter*. Joe Morton is the miracle-wielding extraterrestrial who is misunderstood by the earthlings and pursued by a pair of screeching alien cops, one of whom is portrayed by Sayles himself. ▼

Advance tickets (\$5, or \$35 for an all-fest pass) are available at Macy's Union Square, or on the day of the show at the Castro. Call 621-6120.

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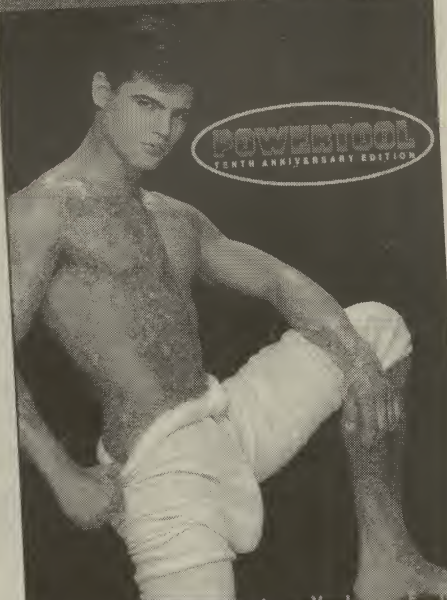
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MUSIC

Ali Akbar Khan at the Palace of Fine Arts

Morning ragas

by Timothy Pfaff

One of the Bay Area's better-kept musical secrets is the master of North Indian classical music, Ali Akbar Khan. By any estimation the greatest musician of his tradition — many consider him the world's greatest living musician — Khansahib, as he is universally called (the name denotes both reverence and affection), introduced Hindustani music to the West more than 40 years ago and now, at San Rafael's Ali Akbar College of Music, teaches it in the company of the greatest of his colleagues, who come to Marin County to teach and play solely because of his eminence. But even though his long list of achievements and awards includes a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship (the so-called "Genius Award") and, most recently, a National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellowship, the San Anselmo resident still plays primarily to his fellow Indians. It's everyone else's loss.

Whatever else is true, Khansahib, now 77, is the safest bet in music. His concerts guarantee a transcendent musical experience. Competing with Bay-to-Breakers the morning of May 17, he gave what is becoming an annual tradition of a concert of rarely heard morning ragas at the Palace of Fine Arts with his long-time drummer colleague Swapan Chaudhuri. Sheer musical magic prevailed. Although Chaudhuri is from a different gharana, or school, from Khansahib's, the pair's association is so long and deep that they go beyond partnership and artistic accord to a potent level of mutual inspiration.

Khansahib's instrument is the sarod, once dubbed "the Indian lute" because it is long-necked and played guitar-style. But the nickname is misleading, not just because the instrument is unfretted. Its metal fingerboard, eight plucked strings, and underlying bank of sympathetic, resonating strings offer a range of sound unimaginable on the soft-spoken lute. Chaudhuri's tabla is a pair of tuned, hand-struck drums with

sufficient musical capacity that they can be played solo. Together the instruments afford a heady fusion of pitches and rhythms both can produce individually but that are infinitely enriched with interplay.

It's a fundamentally improvisational music — spontaneous compositions based on ragas, which are not melodies in the strict sense but specific ascending and descending note patterns associated with particular moods and even times of day. Typically the sarod begins alone, with a slow, unmetered, meditative section known as alap (a Khansahib specialty; he has recorded a two-CD set of alaps only) that gradually assumes a rhythm and, with the entry of the tabla, gives way to an increasingly spirited concluding gat.

Longer is better

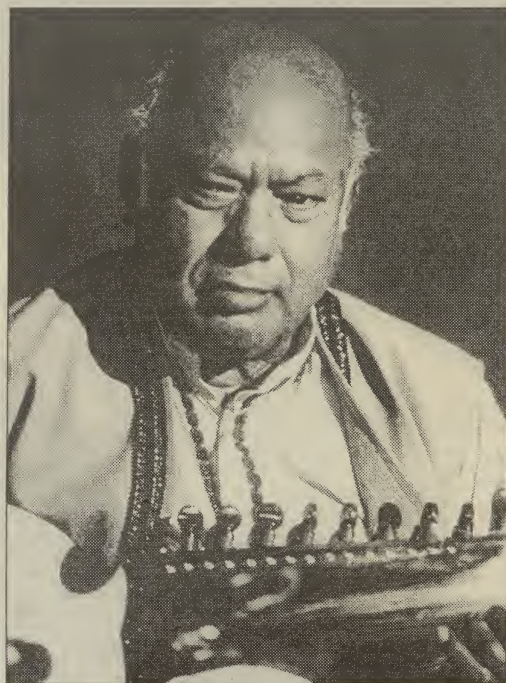
The longer the piece, generally speaking, the richer the experience, and this concert's first, to the raga Ahiri Lalit, weighed in at a hefty yet timeless 95 minutes. Khansahib's languid, deeply lyrical investigation of the raga's melodic essence crept spellbindingly to the 25-minute mark before it fell, almost imperceptibly, into a discernible beat. With rhythm came dissonance from this supremely advanced harmonic mind, along with the startling, wide-ranging intervals that are among his artistic thumbprints.

It was again as long before Chaudhuri joined in for a gat of infectious arresting light-heartedness. Somewhere around an hour and a quarter in, the tabla player indulged the first of a dazzling array of drum solos — this particular one faster than seemed humanly possible yet utterly unostentatious and seemingly effortless. In more than 20 years of marveling at Chaudhuri's playing, I've never heard playing as sheerly ecstatic as this. (The audience erupted in tears and cheers.) The pair's easy mastery of the rhythm, a 16-beat cycle called tintal that's the 4/4 of Indian music, set the stage for musical sparring that brought the piece to a jubilant close.

The thrill of this music is not just the prodigality of its improvisation but the precision with which both musicians subdivide both pitches and rhythms into their composite microns, then recombine them over progressively longer and more daring temporal spans. The concluding piece, an equally sublime, hour-long exploration of raga Shuddh Basant over a pair of rhythms, first a moderately paced, ten-beat jhaptaal, then a lightning-fast tintal, traded in the kind of supreme relaxation only the greatest of musicians can indulge — and the unbridled inventions of two men indulging in a level of musical sport available to them alone.

An auxiliary joy of the concert was watching the players accompanying the pair on the pitch-keeping drone instruments called tanpuras. A long-term Khansahib student tracked Chaudhuri in each of the pieces, and in both ragas Khansahib was supported by his keenly attentive teenage son, Alam. Alam grows noticeably in physical stature from concert to concert, and word has it that his musical growth under his father's tutelage (Indian music is very much a family affair) is keeping pace. Let the good times roll. ▼

Upcoming Ali Akbar College of Music-sponsored concerts include a San Rafael summer series in July; a Berkeley series



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INDICATIONS AND USAGE

NORVIR is indicated in combination with other antiretroviral agents or as monotherapy for the treatment of HIV-infection. For patients with advanced HIV disease, this indication is based on the results from a study that showed a reduction in both mortality and AIDS-defining clinical events for patients who received NORVIR. Median duration of follow-up in this study was 6 months. The clinical benefit from NORVIR therapy for longer periods of treatment is unknown.

For patients with less advanced disease, this indication is based on changes in surrogate markers in studies evaluating patients who received NORVIR alone or in combination with other antiretroviral agents.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

NORVIR is contraindicated in patients with known hypersensitivity to ritonavir or any of its ingredients.

Ritonavir is expected to produce large increases in the plasma concentrations of the following drugs: amiodarone, astemizole, bepridil, bupropion, cisapride, clozapine, dihydroergotamine, encainide, ergotamine, flecainide, meperidine, piroxicam, propafenone, propoxyphene, quinidine, rifabutin, and terfenadine. These agents have recognized risks of arrhythmias, hematologic abnormalities, seizures, or other potentially serious adverse effects. Additionally, postmarketing reports of co-administration of ritonavir with ergotamine or dihydroergotamine have been associated with acute ergot toxicity characterized by peripheral vasospasm and ischemia of the extremities. **These drugs should not be co-administered with ritonavir.**

Ritonavir co-administration is also expected to produce large increases in these highly metabolized sedatives and hypnotics: clorazepate, diazepam, estazolam, flurazepam, midazolam, triazolam, and zolpidem. Due to the potential for extreme sedation and respiratory depression from these agents, these drugs should not be co-administered with ritonavir.

WARNINGS

Allergic reactions including urticaria, mild skin eruptions, bronchospasm, and angioedema have been reported. Rare cases of anaphylaxis and Stevens-Johnson syndrome have also been reported.

Hepatic transaminase elevations exceeding 5 times the upper limit of normal, clinical hepatitis, and jaundice have occurred in patients receiving NORVIR alone or in combination with other antiretroviral drugs (see Table 3). There may be an increased risk for transaminase elevations in patients with underlying hepatitis B or C. Therefore, caution should be exercised when administering NORVIR to patients with pre-existing liver diseases, liver enzyme abnormalities, or hepatitis.

There have been postmarketing reports of hepatic dysfunction, including some fatalities. These have generally occurred in patients taking multiple concomitant medications and/or with advanced AIDS. A definitive causal relationship has not been established.

New onset diabetes mellitus, exacerbation of pre-existing diabetes mellitus, and hyperglycemia have been reported during postmarketing surveillance in HIV-infected patients receiving protease inhibitor therapy. Some patients required either initiation or dose adjustments of insulin or oral hypoglycemic agents for treatment of these events. In some cases, diabetic ketoacidosis has occurred. In those patients who discontinued protease inhibitor therapy, hyperglycemia persisted in some cases. Because these events have been reported voluntarily during clinical practice, estimates of frequency cannot be made and a causal relationship between protease inhibitor therapy and these events has not been established.

PRECAUTIONS**General**

Ritonavir is principally metabolized by the liver. Therefore, caution should be exercised when administering this drug to patients with impaired hepatic function (see WARNINGS).

Resistance/Cross-resistance

The potential for HIV cross-resistance between protease inhibitors has not been fully explored. Therefore, it is unknown what effect ritonavir therapy will have on the activity of subsequent protease inhibitors.

Hemophilia

There have been reports of increased bleeding, including spontaneous skin hematomas and hemarthrosis, in patients with hemophilia type A and B treated with protease inhibitors. In some patients additional factor VIII was given. In more than half of the reported cases, treatment with protease inhibitors was continued or reintroduced. A causal relationship has not been established.

Information For Patients

Patients should be informed that NORVIR is not a cure for HIV infection and that they may continue to acquire illnesses associated with advanced HIV infection, including opportunistic infections.

Patients should be told that the long-term effects of NORVIR are unknown at this time. They should be informed that NORVIR therapy has not been shown to reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Patients should be advised to take NORVIR with food, if possible.

Patients should be informed to take NORVIR every day as prescribed. Patients should not alter the dose or discontinue NORVIR without consulting their doctor. If a dose is missed, patients should take the next dose as soon as possible. However, if a dose is skipped, the patient should not double the next dose.

Since NORVIR interacts with some drugs when taken together, patients should be advised to report to their doctor the use of any other medications, including prescription and nonprescription drugs.

Laboratory Tests

Ritonavir has been associated with alterations in triglycerides, cholesterol, SGOT, SGPT, GGT, CPK, and uric acid. Appropriate laboratory testing should be performed prior to initiating NORVIR therapy and at periodic intervals or if any clinical signs or symptoms occur during therapy. For comprehensive information concerning laboratory test alterations associated with nucleoside analogues, physicians should refer to the complete product information for each of these drugs.

Drug Interactions**Effects on ritonavir**

Agents which increase CYP3A activity (e.g., phenobarbital, carbamazepine, dexamethasone, phenytoin, rifampin, and rifabutin) are expected to increase the clearance of ritonavir resulting in decreased ritonavir plasma concentrations. Tobacco use is associated with an 18% decrease in the AUC of ritonavir.

Effects on co-administered drugs

Ritonavir can produce large increases in plasma concentrations of certain highly metabolized drugs. Ritonavir has a high affinity for several cytochrome P450 (CYP) isoforms with the following rank order: CYP3A > CYP2D6 > CYP2C9, CYP2C19 >> CYP2A6, CYP1A2, CYP2E1. There is some evidence that ritonavir may increase the activity of glucuronosyl transferases; thus, loss of therapeutic effects from directly glucuronidated agents during ritonavir therapy may signify the need for dosage alteration of these agents.

Clinical drug interaction studies with ritonavir and some commonly administered drugs have been conducted. Drugs that may need dose adjustment based on information from these studies are listed below in alphabetical order. Drugs that are predicted to be affected by co-administration with ritonavir are listed in Table 1.

Clarithromycin: The mean increase in the AUC of clarithromycin in the presence of ritonavir was 77%. Clarithromycin may be administered without dosage adjustment to patients with normal renal function. However, for patients with renal impairment the following dosage adjustments should be considered. For patients with CL_{CR} 30 to 60 mL/min the dose of clarithromycin should be reduced by 50%. For patients with CL_{CR} < 30 mL/min the dose of clarithromycin should be decreased by 75%.

Desipramine: Co-administration of ritonavir resulted in a 145% mean increase in the AUC of desipramine. Dosage reduction of desipramine should be considered in patients taking the combination.

Didanosine: The AUC of didanosine was decreased by 13% when co-administered with ritonavir. Didanosine may be administered without dosage adjustment to patients taking ritonavir; however, dosing of the two drugs should be separated by 2.5 hours to avoid formulation incompatibility.

Disulfiram/Metronidazole: Ritonavir formulations contain alcohol, which can produce reactions when co-administered with disulfiram or other drugs that produce disulfiram-like reactions (e.g., metronidazole).

Oral Contraceptives: The mean AUC of ethinyl estradiol, a component in oral contraceptives, was reduced 40% during concomitant dosing with ritonavir 500 mg q12h; dosage increase or alternate contraceptive measures should be considered.

Saquinavir: Ritonavir extensively inhibits the metabolism of saquinavir resulting in greatly increased saquinavir plasma concentrations. Following approximately 4 weeks of a combination regimen of saquinavir (400 or 600 mg b.i.d.) and ritonavir (400 or 600 mg b.i.d.) in HIV-infected patients, saquinavir AUC values were at least 17-fold greater than historical AUC values from patients who received saquinavir 600 mg t.i.d. without ritonavir. When used in combination therapy for up to 24 weeks, doses greater than 400 mg b.i.d. of either ritonavir or saquinavir were associated with an increase in adverse events. Plasma exposures achieved with Invirase® (saquinavir mesylate) (400 mg b.i.d.) and ritonavir (400 mg b.i.d.) are similar to those achieved with Fortovase™ (saquinavir) (400 mg b.i.d.) and ritonavir (400 mg b.i.d.).

Theophylline: The average AUC of theophylline was reduced by 43% when co-administered with ritonavir. Increased dosage of theophylline may be required.

A systematic review of over 200 medications prescribed to HIV-infected patients was performed to identify potential drug interactions with ritonavir. Table 1 summarizes some commonly prescribed drugs, categorized by the predicted magnitude of interaction that could result if co-administered with ritonavir. Drugs that are specifically contraindicated due to the expected magnitude of interaction and potential for serious adverse events are in the first column of Table 1. This table lists the predicted magnitude of drug interaction based on what is known about the metabolism for each medication. The actual magnitude of interaction could be larger or smaller than that listed; therefore, it is advised that concomitant use of any of these agents with ritonavir should be accompanied by therapeutic drug concentration monitoring and/or increased monitoring of therapeutic and adverse effects, especially for agents with narrow therapeutic margins (e.g., oral anticoagulants, immunosuppressants). Large dosage reductions (>50% reduction) may be required for those agents extensively metabolized by CYP3A.

Table 1
Predicted Effects on Drugs Co-administered with Ritonavir. Contraindicated Medications are Listed in Column 1
(see PRECAUTIONS, Drug Interactions for Clinical Pharmacology Study Results)

Drug Category	Representative Drugs by Theoretical Prediction of Interaction Category				
	Contraindicated Medications	Large ¹ ↑ AUC ²	Moderate ¹ ↑ AUC ²	Moderate ¹ ↑ or ↓ AUC ²	Unknown
Analgesics, narcotic	Meperidine Propoxyphene	Alfentanil Fentanyl Methadone	Hydrocodone Oxycodone Tramadol		Levemethadyl (LAAM) Codeine Hydromorphone Morphine
Analgesics, nonsteroidal	Piroxicam			Diclofenac Flurbiprofen Ibuprofen Indomethacin	Nabumetone Sulindac Ketoprofen Ketorolac Naproxen
Antiarrhythmics	Amiodarone Encainide Flecainide Propafenone Quinidine	Lidocaine	Disopyramide Mexiletine		Tocainide ^{††} Digoxin
Antihistaminic					Theophylline*
Antibiotics, macrolide		Erythromycin	Clarithromycin*		
Anticoagulant			R-warfarin	S-warfarin	
Anticonvulsants		Carbamazepine	Clonazepam Ethosuximide	Phenytoin	Phenobarbital Divalproex Lamotrigine
Antidepressants, tricyclic			Amiraptyline Clomipramine Desipramine* Imipramine Maprotiline Norpryline Trimipramine		Doxepin ^{††}
Antidepressants, SSRIs and non-tricyclic	Bupropion	Nefazodone Sertraline	Fluoxetine Paroxetine Trazodone Venlafaxine		Fluvoxamine
Antidiarrheal					Diphenoxylate Loperamide
Antiemetics, Prokinetics	Cisapride		Dronabinol Ondansetron		Prochlorperazine ^{††} Promethazine ^{††} Metoclopramide
Antifungal agents		Itraconazole Ketoconazole Miconazole			
Antihistamines	Astemizole Terfenadine	Loratadine			
Antihypertensives				Losartan	Doxazosin ^{††} Prazosin ^{††} Terazosin ^{††}
Antimycobacterials	Rifabutin				Ethionamide Rifampin
Antiparasitics		Quinine		Proguanil	Albendazole Chloroquine Metronidazole Primaquine Pyrimethamine Trimetrexate
Antilucer agents				Lansoprazole Omeprazole	
β-blockers			Metoprolol Penbutolol Pindolol Timolol	Propranolol	Betaxolol ^{††}
Calcium channel blockers	Bepridil	Amlodipine Diltiazem Felodipine Isradipine Nicardipine Nifedipine Nimodipine Nitroglycerin Nitrendipine Verapamil			
Cancer chemotherapeutic agents		Tamoxifen	Etoposide Paclitaxel Vinblastine Vincristine	Cyclophosphamide [†] Ifosfamide [†]	Daurorubicin ^{††} Doxorubicin ^{††}
Ergot alkaloids and derivatives	Dihydroergotamine Ergotamine	Bromocriptine			Ergonovine ^{††} Methylergonovine ^{††} Methysergide ^{††}
Hemorrhologic agent					Pentoxifylline

HIV antivirals	Indinavir Saquinavir*		Nevirapine**	
Hypoglycemics			Glimepiride Glipizide Glyburide Tolbutamide	
Hypolipidemics	Fluvastatin Lovastatin Simvastatin	Pravastatin	Gemfibrozil	Clofibrate
Immunosuppressants	Cyclosporine Tacrolimus			
Neuroleptics	Clozapine Pimozide	Chlorpromazine Haloperidol Perphenazine Risperidone Thioridazine		
Sedative/hypnotics	Clorazepate Diazepam Estazolam Flurazepam Midazolam Triazolam Zolpidem			Lorazepam Oxazepam Propofol Temazepam
Steroids	Dexamethasone	Prednisone		
Stimulants	Dexfenfluramine Methamphetamine		Methylphenidate	Ethinyl estradiol*

¹ Large = > 3X; Moderate = 1.5-3X.
² AUC = area under the plasma concentration-time curve, a measure of drug exposure.
³ An increase in the AUC of cyclophosphamide and ifosfamide, both activated by CYP, may correspond to a decrease in the AUC of the active metabolite(s) and a possible decrease in efficacy of these drugs.
⁴ A possible increase in concentrations is more likely when combined with ritonavir.
⁵ Clinical drug interaction study has been performed.

Post-Marketing Experience with Drugs Listed in Table 1
Cardiac and neurologic events have been reported when ritonavir has been co-administered with disopyramide, mexiletine, nefazodone, or fluoxetine. The possibility of drug interaction cannot be excluded.
Carcinogenesis and Mutagenesis
Long-term carcinogenicity studies of ritonavir in animal systems have not been completed. However, ritonavir was not mutagenic or clastogenic in a battery of *in vitro* and *in vivo* assays including bacterial reverse mutation (Ames) using *S. typhimurium* and *E. coli*, mouse lymphoma, mouse micronucleus, and chromosome aberrations in human lymphocytes.
Pregnancy, Fertility, and Reproduction
Pregnancy Category B: Ritonavir produced no effects on fertility in rats at drug exposures approximately 40% (male) and 60% (female) of that achieved with the proposed therapeutic dose. Higher dosages were not feasible due to hepatic toxicity.
No treatment-related malformations were observed when ritonavir was administered to pregnant rats or rabbits. Developmental toxicity observed in rats (early resorptions, decreased fetal body weight and ossification delays and developmental variations) occurred at a maternally toxic dosage at an exposure equivalent to approximately 30% of that achieved with the proposed therapeutic dose. A slight increase in the incidence of cryptorchidism was also noted in rats at an exposure approximately 22% of that achieved with the proposed therapeutic dose.
Developmental toxicity observed in rabbits (resorptions, decreased litter size and decreased fetal weights) also occurred at a maternally toxic dosage equivalent to 1.8 times the proposed therapeutic dose based on a body surface area conversion factor.
There are, however, no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, this drug should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.
Nursing Mothers: It is not known whether this drug is excreted in human milk. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk, caution should be exercised when ritonavir is administered to a nursing woman. However, the U.S. Public Health Service Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises HIV-infected women not to breast-feed to avoid postnatal transmission of HIV to a child who may not be infected.
Pediatric Use
The safety and pharmacokinetic profile of ritonavir in pediatric patients below the age of 2 years have not been established. In HIV-infected patients age 2 to 16 years, the adverse event profile seen during a clinical trial and postmarketing experience was similar to that for adult patients. The evaluation of the antiviral activity of ritonavir in pediatric patients in clinical trials is ongoing.

ADVERSE REACTIONS
The safety of NORVIR alone and in combination with nucleoside analogues was studied in 1140 patients. Table 2 lists treatment-emergent adverse events (at least possibly related and of at least moderate intensity) that occurred in 2% or greater of patients receiving NORVIR alone or in combination with nucleosides in Study 245 or Study 247. At the time of this safety assessment, the median duration of treatment in Study 245 and Study 247 was 3.7 and 2.4 months, respectively. However, safety data was collected on patients for greater than 6 months of treatment. The most frequently reported clinical adverse events, other than asthenia, among patients receiving NORVIR were gastrointestinal and neurological disturbances including nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, anorexia, abdominal pain, taste perversion, and circumoral and peripheral paresthesias. Similar adverse event profiles were reported in patients receiving ritonavir in other trials.

Table 2 Percentage of Patients with Treatment-Emergent ¹ Adverse Events of Moderate or Severe Intensity Occurring in ≥ 2% of Patients Receiving NORVIR					
Adverse Events	Study 245 Naïve Patients			Study 247 Advanced Patients	
	NORVIR +ZDV n=116	NORVIR n=117	ZDV n=119	NORVIR n=541	ZDV n=541
Body as a Whole					
Abdominal Pain	4.3	3.4	4.2	7.0	3.1
Asthenia	27.6	9.4	10.1	14.2	5.3
Fever	1.7	0.9	1.7	4.4	2.2
Headache	7.8	5.1	7.6	6.3	4.0
Malaise	4.3	1.7	3.4	0.7	0.2
Cardiovascular					
Vasodilation	2.6	1.7	0.8	1.3	0.0
Digestive					
Anorexia	7.8	0.9	3.4	6.1	2.0
Constipation	0.6	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.4
Diarrhea	21.6	12.8	0.0	18.3	6.1
Dyspepsia	1.7	0.0	1.7	4.8	0.7
Flatulence	2.6	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.6
Local Throat Irritation	1.7	1.7	0.8	2.6	0.2
Nausea	46.6	23.1	24.4	26.2	5.7
Vomiting	22.4	12.8	12.6	15.2	2.6
Metabolic and Nutritional					
Creatine Phosphokinase Increased	1.7	3.4	3.4	0.9	0.2
Hyperlipidemia	1.7	1.7	0.0	4.1	0.0
Musculoskeletal					
Myalgia	1.7	1.7	0.8	2.2	0.9
Nervous					
Circumoral Paresthesia	5.2	2.6	0.0	5.9	0.2
Dizziness	5.2	2.6	1.7	3.3	1.1
Insomnia	3.4	2.6	0.8	1.3	0.6
Paresthesia	5.2	2.6	0.0	2.0	0.2
Peripheral Paresthesia	0.0	6.0	0.0	5.0	0.7
Somnolence	2.6	2.6	0.0	2.0	0.2
Thinking Abnormal	2.6	0.0	0.8	0.7	0.2
Respiratory					
Pharyngitis	0.9	2.6	0.0	0.4	0.4
Skin and Appendages					
Rash	0.9	0.0	0.8	2.6	0.9
Sweating	3.4	2.6	1.7	1.3	0.6
Special Senses					
Taste Perversion	15.5	10.3	7.6	5.4	1.7

¹ Includes those adverse events at least possibly related to study drug or of unknown relationship and excludes concurrent HIV conditions.
Adverse events occurring in less than 2% of patients receiving NORVIR in all phase II/III studies and considered at least possibly related or of unknown relationship to treatment and of at least moderate intensity are listed below by body system.
Body as a Whole: Abdomen enlarged, accidental injury, allergic reaction, back pain, cachexia, chest pain, chills, facial edema, facial pain, flu syndrome, hormone level altered, hyperthermia, kidney pain, neck pain, neck rigidity, pain (unspecified), substernal chest pain, and photosensitivity reaction.
Cardiovascular System: Hemorrhage, hypotension, migraine, palpitation, peripheral vascular disorder, postural hypotension, syncope, and tachycardia.
Digestive System: Abnormal stools, bloody diarrhea, cheilitis, cholangitis, colitis, dry mouth, dysphagia, eructation, esophagitis, gastritis, gastroenteritis, gastrointestinal disorder, gastrointestinal hemorrhage, gingivitis, hepatitis, hepatomegaly, ileitis, liver damage, liver function tests abnormal, mouth ulcer, oral moniliasis, pancreatitis, periodontal abscess, rectal disorder, tenesmus, and thirst.
Endocrine System: Diabetes mellitus.
Hemic and Lymphatic System: Anemia, ecchymosis, leukopenia, lymphadenopathy, lymphocytosis, and thrombocytopenia.
Musculoskeletal and Nutritional Disorders: Avitaminosis, dehydration, edema, glycosuria, gout, hypercholesterolemia, peripheral edema, and weight loss.
Musculoskeletal System: Arthralgia, arthrosis, joint disorder, muscle cramps, muscle weakness, myositis, and twitching.
Nervous System: Abnormal dreams, abnormal gait, agitation, amnesia, anxiety, aphasia, ataxia, confusion, convulsion, depression, diplopia, emotional lability, euphoria, grand mal convulsion, hallucinations, hyperesthesia, incoordination, libido decreased, nervousness, neuralgia, neuropathy, paralysis, peripheral neuropathy, peripheral sensory neuropathy, personality disorder, tremor, urinary retention, and vertigo.
Respiratory System: Asthma, dyspnea, epistaxis, hiccup, hypoventilation, increased cough, interstitial pneumonia, lung disorder, and rhinitis.
Skin and Appendages: Acne, contact dermatitis, dry skin, eczema, folliculitis, maculopapular rash, molluscum contagiosum, pruritus, psoriasis, seborrhea, urticaria, and vesiculobullous rash.
Special Senses: Abnormal electro-oculogram, abnormal electroretinogram, abnormal vision, amblyopia/blurred vision, blepharitis, ear pain, eye pain, hearing impairment, increased cerumen, iritis, parosmia, photophobia, taste loss, tinnitus, uveitis, and visual field defect.
Urogenital System: Dysuria, hematuria, impotence, kidney calculus, kidney failure, nocturia, penis disorder, polyuria, pyelonephritis, urethritis, and urinary frequency.

Post-Marketing Experience:
There have been postmarketing reports of seizure. Cause and effect relationship has not been established.
Dehydration, usually associated with gastrointestinal symptoms, and sometimes resulting in hypotension, syncope, or renal insufficiency has been reported. Syncope, orthostatic hypotension, and renal insufficiency have also been reported without known dehydration.
Laboratory Abnormalities
Table 3 shows the percentage of patients who developed marked laboratory abnormalities.

Table 3 Percentage of Patients, by Study and Treatment Group, with Marked Chemistry and Hematology Laboratory Value Abnormalities					
Variable	Limit	Study 245 Naïve Patients		Study 247 Advanced Patients	
		NORVIR + ZDV	ZDV	NORVIR	Placebo
CHEMISTRY	HIGH				
Glucose	(>250 mg/dL)	2.0	-	0.9	0.4
Uric Acid	(>12 mg/dL)	-	-	-	3.6
Creatinine	(>3.6 mg/dL)	-	-	-	0.2
Potassium	(<6.0 mEq/L)	-	-	-	0.4
Chloride	(>122 mEq/L)	-	0.9	-	-
Total Bilirubin	(>3.6 mg/dL)	-	-	-	1.2
Alkaline Phosphatase	(>550 IU/L)	-	0.9	-	1.4
SGOT (AST)	(>180 IU/L)	2.9	6.5	1.7	3.8
SGPT (ALT)	(>215 IU/L)	3.9	5.6	2.6	6.1
GGT	(>300 IU/L)	2.0	2.8	0.9	14.7
LDH	(>1170 IU/L)	-	-	-	1.0
Triglycerides	(>1500 mg/dL)	1.0	2.8	-	10.1
Triglycerides Fasting	(>1500 mg/dL)	2.1	1.4	-	7.9
CPK	(>1000 IU/L)	7.0	7.5	7.1	8.6
Amylase	(>2 X ULN ¹)	-	0.9	-	0.2
CHEMISTRY	LOW				
Albumin	(<2.0 g/dL)	-	-	-	0.2
Sodium	(<123 mEq/L)	-	-	-	0.2
Potassium	(<3.0 mEq/L)	-	0.9	-	2.0
Chloride	(<84 mEq/L)	-	0.9	-	-
Magnesium	(<1.0 mEq/L)	-	-	-	0.4
Calcium	(<6.9 mEq/L)	-	-	-	1.2
HEMATOLOGY	LOW				
Hemoglobin	(<8.0 g/dL)	-	-	-	2.8
Hematocrit	(<30%)	2.0	-	-	11.7
RBC	(<3.0 x 10 ¹² /L)	1.0	-	1.7	14.9
WBC	(<2.5 x 10 ⁹ /L)	-	-	3.5	25.1
Platelet Count	(<20 X 10 ⁹ /L)	-	-	-	0.4
Neutrophils	(<50 X 10 ⁹ /L)	-	-	-	4.0
HEMATOLOGY	HIGH				
WBC	(>25 X 10 ⁹ /L)	-	-	-	1.6
Neutrophils	(>20 X 10 ⁹ /L)	-	-	-	1.8
Eosinophils	(>1.0 X 10 ⁹ /L)	-	1.9	0.9	1.8
Prothrombin Time	(>1.5 X ULN ¹)	1.0	-	-	1.0

¹ ULN = upper limit of the normal range.
- Indicates no events reported.
OVERDOSSAGE
Acute Overdose
Human Overdose Experience: Human experience of acute overdose with NORVIR is limited. One patient in clinical trials took NORVIR 1500 mg/day for two days. The patient reported paresthesias which resolved after the dose was decreased. A post-marketing case of renal failure with eosinophilia has been reported with ritonavir overdose.
The approximate lethal dose was found to be greater than 20 times the related human dose in rats and 10 times the related human dose in mice.
Management of Overdose
Treatment of overdose with NORVIR consists of general supportive measures including monitoring of vital signs and observation of the clinical status of the patient. There is no specific antidote for overdose with NORVIR. If indicated, elimination of unabsorbed drug should be achieved by emesis or gastric lavage; usual precautions should be observed to maintain the airway. Administration of activated charcoal may also be used to aid in removal of unabsorbed drug. Since ritonavir is extensively metabolized by the liver and is highly protein bound, dialysis is unlikely to be beneficial in significant removal of the drug. A Certified Poison Control Center should be consulted for up-to-date information on the management of overdose with NORVIR.

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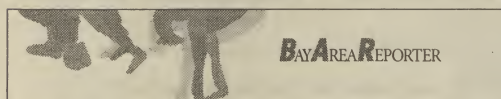
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San Francisco Opera

Summer season on disc

by Stephanie von Buchau

Opera is not usually a laughing matter, more's the pity, but the big joke about the upcoming San Francisco Opera summer season — *Femmes Fatales* — is that the sexiest thing on stage is not going to be one of those underdressed, anorexic femmes from the Victoria's Secret catalog that moonlighted as an opera brochure.

The hot number is a 32-year-old American countertenor named David Daniels. Even James Jorden, publisher of that naughty opera 'zine *Parterre Box*, can't help employing hyperbole when drooling over the handsome Southerner with the gorgeous mezzo soprano. ("Jennifer

Larmore with a beard," someone quipped after Daniels' recent Berkeley appearance with Philharmonia Baroque. "Much better than Larmore," an anonymous SFO music-staffer growled appreciatively.)

Daniels sings Nerone — that's the fiddling Roman tyrant — in Monteverdi's 1642 masterpiece, *The Coronation of Poppea*, for his SFO debut this June. *Poppea* is an opera so decadent that British critics regularly fulminate about its immorality. The evil Nerone, having banished Ottavia, his legitimate wife, and ordered the suicide of his sober advisor Seneca, gleefully takes to bed the luscious courtesan Poppea (Ruxandra Donose, whom you should remember as Niklauss in SFO's last *Tales of Hoffmann*). The opera ends triumphantly with the two of them warbling the most beautiful love duet ever written, "Pur ti miro."

Sure, *Poppea* is the putative "femme fatale" of this opera, but my 10-power binoculars will be trained on Daniels — and I won't be alone. Because he is that unusual species of tenor who can sing in the high pitch of the original (a soprano castrato), and because he's a hunk, Daniels is ideal for the oversexed Nerone, usually sung by a female mezzo soprano. The last SFO *Poppea* sported a watery tenor, but the most authentic recordings all feature two females as the illicit lovers.

My favorite *Poppea* is Rene Jacobs' realization. (Monteverdi did not orchestrate his operas because the available instrumental forces in each Venetian theater were so varied.) Jacobs' lovers are a pair of radiant young French sopranos — Danielle Borst (*Poppea*) and Guillemette Laurens (Nerone) — who make the most ravishing sounds in that final duet. Larmore, in her early music incarnation, is the monumentally wronged Ottavia. This is definitely a period music performance, but under Jacobs' direction it is neither dry nor precious (*Harmonia Mundi France*; three discs).

There was a new *Poppea* by John Eliot Gardiner and the English Baroque Soloists issued last year (*Archiv*; three discs). The cast is better known, but I don't think Dana Hanchard (Nerone) or Sylvia McNair (*Poppea*) are nearly as stylish and sexy as their French rivals. The star of Gardiner's cast is Anne-Sophie von Otter, the noble Ottavia. Why can't S.F. Opera think up something to tempt this magnificent artist?

Gloriously amoral

These days, only musical Ludites balk at Alban Berg's operas. San Francisco has been performing *Wozzeck* and *Lulu* for all of my adult life. The *Lulu* in 1971 with Anja Silja as the gloriously amoral, coldly murderous *Lulu* is indelibly seared on the back of my eyeballs, but Lotfi Mansouri's 1989 premiere of Friedrich Cerha's completion of Act Three was also an entertaining evening that sold out at the end of its run.

Lulu recordings are a problem because you have to decide if you want the two-act version strictly by Berg or if you need Cerha's completion. I'm in the minority in that I love Berg's music, but find the "recreation" dull and derivative. Still, except for the

thrilling Silja/Dohnanyi two-act set (London; two discs), you're better off with the complete opera. Teresa Stratas heads the cast on the Boulez version (*Deutsche Grammophon*; three discs), but I prefer two newer sets. The latest is from a live Danish production starring American Constance Haumann in the title role. The rest of the opera is sung cleanly, with an analytic performance by conductor Ulf Schirmer and the Danish National Radio Orchestra (Chandos; three discs).

For a seedier atmosphere, always a plus in *Lulu*, I prefer the live Paris performance from 1991 conducted with warmth and decadence by Brit Jeffrey Tate. It's positively creepy in its insistence that we are all complicit in the rape and murder of *Lulu*. Hans Hotter and Brigitte Fassbaender repeat their definitive Schigolch and lesbian Countess Geschwitz (they're on Dohnanyi's album, too), while Patricia Wise is the bright-voiced heroine, and a great, underrated German baritone, Wolfgang Schöne, doubles as Dr. Schoen and Jack the Ripper (EMI Classics; three discs).

Here they come again

As for the third femme fatale, I feel about Carmen the way that anonymous fellow in *Sunday*, *Bloody Sunday* feels when the drunken woman gets up to dance on the table: "Here come those tired old tits again." We just had this opera two years ago during the Civic Auditorium debacle, and now Olga Borodina, for whom it was remounted, has had to cancel.



Elena Zarembo

At least try to hear Russian Elena Zarembo, who, in her other SFO incarnations, has given notice she might be a first-rate gypsy. You may remember her as the steamy Konchakovna in *Prince Igor*.

The *Carmen* recording situation has not changed since I commented on it two years ago. If you want authentic French opéra-comique style with spoken dialogue, try to find the 1951 André Cluytens recording with Solange Michel (*Carmen*), Martha Angeli (*Micaela*), and Raoul Jobin (*Don Jose*). The sound is so-so and the sessions photos of fat, overdressed singers are hilarious, but can they ever sing French (EMI Classics; two discs). For a thrilling if unidiomatic version of the international Guiraud-recitative version, you want Herbert von Karajan and the Vienna Philharmonic, with Leontyne Price

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Countertenor David Daniels Finding his voice

by Paul Thomason

One of the most eagerly awaited San Francisco Opera debuts of recent seasons takes place when Monteverdi's *L'Incoronazione di Poppea* opens on June 13 with countertenor David Daniels as the Roman Emperor Nero. Few singers today have generated the amount of excitement Daniels has through his recitals, concerts, and appearances in opera. This is due first of all to his extraordinarily beautiful voice, and the astounding artistry with which he sings. But a certain amount of the buzz is because Daniels is an attractive guy, oozing Southern charm, who happens to sing in the range of a mezzo-soprano rather than in the bass clef. It is a titillating combination for many audience members, even more so given the fact the singer is gay.

Daniels' voice does have not the rather sexless, thin sound often associated with countertenors, but is a rich, dark, full-blooded sound. It is the kind of sensational voice and technique one associates with some of the top mezzos of the 20th century, say young Marilyn Horne.

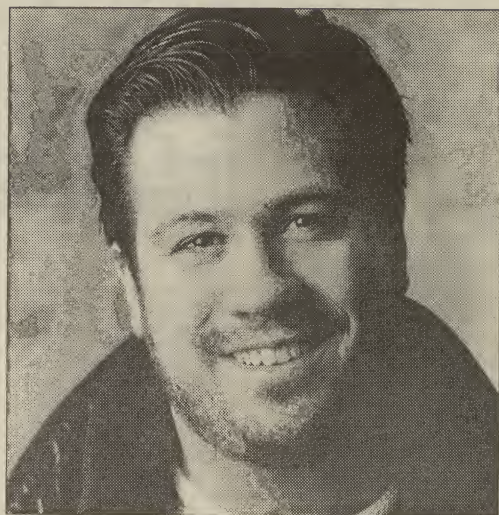
"That's just my voice," says Daniels. "It's the instrument that I have. I don't do it to be different from other countertenors. I think it's important to show that countertenors are just another voice type. It would be nice someday to be considered a great singer, and not a great countertenor."

Some people in the classical music business have already taken Daniels out of the countertenor ghetto. One internationally-known conductor who has worked with most major opera singers mused for a bit over the possibility Daniels' voice just might be the most beautiful voice singing classical music today, then concluded, "He is pure magic."

"I always wanted to sing, I just didn't know it was going to be with this voice," says Daniels, who grew up in South Carolina in a home where both parents were voice teachers. "That's what was so devastating to me when I finally realized it just ain't gonna happen as a tenor. I couldn't sustain the voice above an F at the top of the staff. I kept cracking. I had always heard and read that singing was athletic and physical, but I just knew that singing couldn't be that torturous."

He had performed as a boy soprano and continued doing so even after his voice changed. "I had always sung in the countertenor voice around the house, at parties, after drinking a box of wine — we couldn't afford bottles," he adds with a laugh. "There's one thing about this [countertenor] voice: I will never crack again in my life. I might let out a strangling, bloody scream, but I will never crack again, because when I'd crack as a tenor, it would flip up into this voice."

Some high-profile articles on Daniels in the mainstream press have suggested that realizing he was a countertenor and "accepting" that fact was intimately tied with accepting his sexual orientation. Daniels instantly pooh-poohs the idea. "I was out forever, it had nothing to do with becoming a countertenor," he says sharply. "I take exception to the idea that it's



Countertenor David Daniels

more difficult for a heterosexual to sing like a woman than it is for a gay man to sing as a countertenor. That idea brings back the connotation of effeminate singers. What I do is exactly the opposite, though it is a mezzo-soprano sound. It is a masculine person bringing a masculine voice, a masculine presence to his performance.

"And I keep my facial hair because I like it. It's not a mask to give myself some sort of sense of masculinity," he adds.

No fiddling

In *Poppea* Daniels plays one of the most famous men in history, the Roman Emperor Nero. It is the fifth time he has portrayed the role, and it is one he loves. "The characters really existed, but the opera only takes the story up to *Poppea* becoming Empress. I don't get to fiddle while Rome burns, and I don't get to kick her to death when she's pregnant."

"I think Nero genuinely loves *Poppea*, in a sick sort of way. So you have that scary, but playful, relationship with *Poppea*, and then it can change in a split-second to complete anger, or bratty fits. The frightening thing about Nero is that it's not as though he's going to slam the door and say, 'I hate you.' In one of his adolescent tantrums, he can kill you."

The cast for *L'Incoronazione di Poppea* is the kind of sensationally strong cast that was once a hallmark of the San Francisco Opera, a fact Daniels loves. "There's no question this cast is great. Ruxandra [Donose, who plays *Poppea*] is so sexy. She really throws herself into it. And I don't have to say a thing about Lorraine [Hunt, who makes her SF Opera debut as Octavia]. Could there be a more perfect role for her?"

Daniels' first recording, of Handel arias, will be released on September 7 by EMI/Virgin Classics. Also scheduled for release this fall are two CDs on the BMG label, one of Scarlatti solo cantatas, and another of the music of Thomas Arne.

The appearances, the recordings, the publicity — he has been labeled a gay icon and sex symbol — can get to be a bit much, but Daniels gives credit to his supportive family and his partner of 12 years for keeping him grounded. "I've never considered myself an overly attractive person physi-

cally. I'm not JoJo The Dogfaced Boy, but some of this stuff is kind of sickening. It's flattering," he adds quickly, "and I love the attention. Actually, this production of *Poppea* brings out that part of me, since I'm shirtless through half of it." ▼

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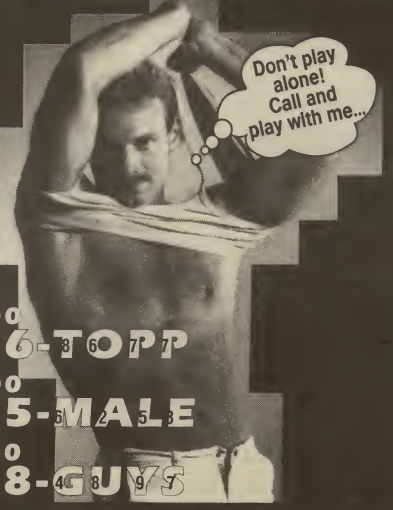
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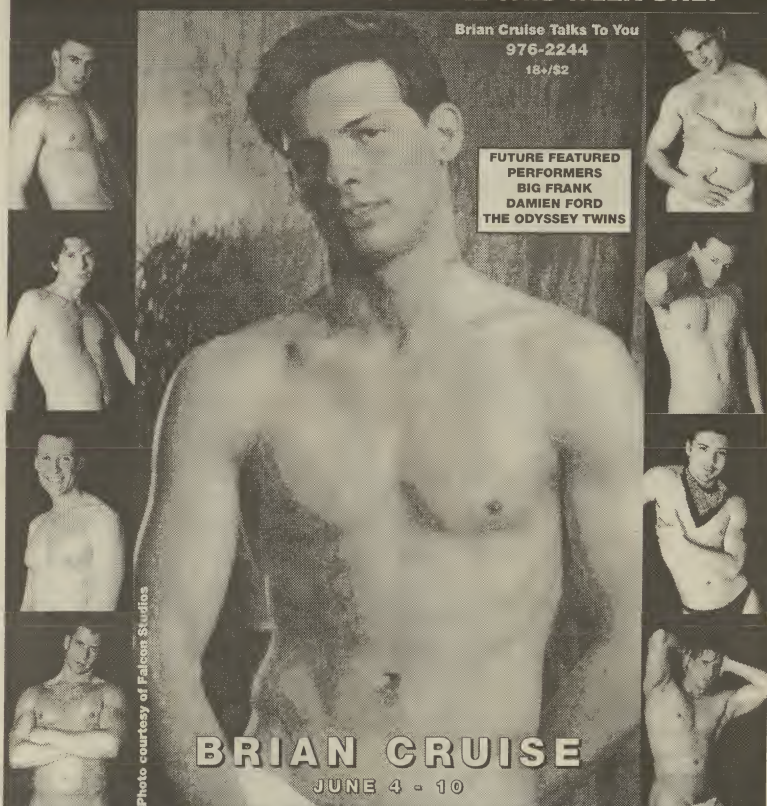
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Photo courtesy of Falcon Studios



Charles Pierce as Bette Davis

Out There

◀ page 34

they added an inch in length. It insults me that they did that."

"You're only as good as your last come shot." — Porn star **Dino DiMarco**

We find ourselves agreeing with the legendary illusionist **Charles Pierce**: "Sex is like bridge. If you don't have a good partner, you'd better have a good hand."

Hop on Pop

"Pop," the **Keith Haring** dance party at SFMOMA last Friday night, was packed to the rafters with pretty young things of both sexes. Where do they come from? Where do they go when it rains? The friendly doorman was carding to make sure everyone

was 18. We told them we're older than two 18-year-olds stacked on top of each other. Which is where 18-year-olds should be.

Speaking of rain, there it was again last week, "liquor on the breath of a rain-bearing wind," in the words of singer, pianist, and composer **Robin Holcomb**. We've been fans of Seattle-based Holcomb since her self-titled debut on Nonesuch, and now she provides an original score when **Joe Goode** Performance Group premieres the new musical *Deeply There (Stories of a Neighborhood)* at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theatre June 18-21. It's not too early to book tix, and this has all the earmarks of a hot ticket: call 978-ARTS.

Saturday night special

Speaking of spectacles, the world premiere screening of



DJ, by Keith Haring, 1983

Titan's *Focal Point* was scheduled for the Campus Theatre last Saturday night, but we couldn't really get it up for the event. For one thing, we hate watching porno in a social setting. For another, the Campus isn't really set up for premieres. No klieg lights outside, it's hardly glamorous getting buzzed in through a turnstyle, and the lack of any lobby inside precludes shmoozing with the stars.

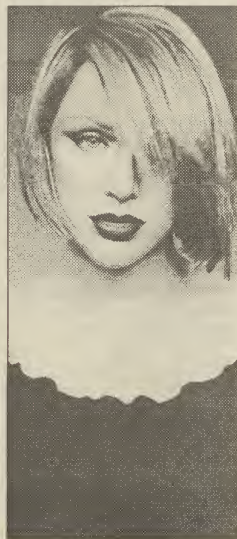
Our forebodings were corroborated by the standard features of the walk up Jones Street from Market. There was the bruised lady sobbing on the traffic island, the crusty pools of vomit on the sidewalk, and the block-long stench of urine. We should have arrived by limo.

But once inside, things took an unexpected turn. We were just in time for the theatre's Saturday night specialty, the **20 Man Show**. The twenty stars of the evening were an attractive bunch of professionals, with some impressively professional hard-ons. Their cumulative effect was overwhelming. The theatre resembled the real "last days of disco," with smoke effects, strobe lights, and second-hand poppers. It was the kind of thing **Christopher Isherwood** went to Berlin for.

We're usually in reviewer-mode when we attend an entertainment, pen at the ready. We're used to having something in our hand. Yet the, um, interactive nature of the 20 Man Show was providing us with options it seemed unsporting to refuse. But we didn't have the right kind of change, we hadn't bathed, and we were wearing dangly earrings. Under the circumstances, we took notes.

It was a relief when the maelstrom finally passed and the Titan movie began, only to prove redundant. How do you spell anticlimactic? So we left. After checking out the anniversary party at

the Stud, we went home and watched the video the Titan folks had given us. It's pretty good.



We love Courtney

Love hurts

Okay, we can't resist one teeny bit of old-fashioned nasty, back-biting gossip before we go. Remember our item about rocker/actress **Courtney Love** at that downtown L.A. fashion show last month? At that very same event, when photojournalist **Belissa Cohen** moved in on her to try to get a picture, Love allegedly kned her in the stomach, screeching something like, "So you don't think I'm a punk rocker anymore? How about this?"

Now the *L.A. Times* reports Cohen has filed suit against Love. What a messy world we live in. Just thought you'd want to know. ▼

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INTERVIEW

Harvey Fierstein is available

Single gay legend seeks mensch

by Brandon Judell

Harvey Fierstein together with Eddie Murphy and Donny Osmond? You've got to be kidding! Well, just check out the vocal credits for Disney's latest cartoon epic, *Mulan*, and you'll see we're not. The gay icon, who still has little boys asking him to make them into women as he accomplished for Robin Williams in *Mrs. Doubtfire*, will be expanding his tot appeal again this month. Now the religious right really has something to get up in arms about.

But Harvey's not nervous. After all, he was the Easter Bunny in *Elmo Saves Christmas* and got to kiss Homer on an episode of *The Simpsons* without much incident. And there are more important things on his mind right now than whether his rasp will cause a possible political furor, or, for that matter, whether or not he's being considered a gay legend. Topping his current priorities are his upcoming cabaret act at New York City's famed Eighty-Eights, and his home, which he's revamping while chatting to us over his cellular phone.

"A legend? Listen! That has absolutely and utterly nothing to do with my life. Let me tell you," he purrs with his infamous throaty growl. "I reside in a small fictional town in Connecticut, where I live a really normal kind of existence, with other gay people, of course, because gay people are everywhere. But I live with normal people. Almost nobody that

is in show business. Nobody judges me really. Yes, people, will say, 'Oh, my mother saw you on TV last night and called me.' Stuff like that. But I don't live with anything that would reflect anything as silly as being a legend."

Suddenly, Harvey interrupts himself to respond to a question from a butch-sounding gent. "Lawrence, are you going to take the oven out today? Listen! I'll get the jack out of the car while I talk to this lovely man on the phone."

Refocusing, Harvey continues, "This is what I mean. You're asking me whether I know if someone would call me a legend, and I'm taking the jack out of the back of my car so that someone can jack up my kitchen window. Drama, huh?"

Fairy tale maven

Beyond home improvements, is much else happening?

"I did just do a script that they're casting right now for children. For HBO. There's a series called *Happily Ever After*, which is fairy tales for ethnic children. What they do is take European fairy tales and revise them with Asian or African-American characters. Well, they came to me and said, 'Would you write one for us? We want to try a gay one.' So I wrote 'The Sissy Duckling.' It's about a gay kid finding his place in the world."

"I'm also writing a movie for Showtime which I'm not allowed to talk about. And I believe there's going to be a major revival of *La Cage aux Folles* in the next year or so, which would be very nice."



Harvey Fierstein

For those poor in gay trivia, Harvey won his third Tony back in 1984 for writing the book of *La Cage*. "You know, I never per-

formed in it. I would love to play Alban, but Jerry Herman does like to hear his music sung well," he laughs. "I think if we got him the most incredible singer in the world for Georges, maybe he'd let me, but I don't know. That would be something that I would really like to do."

Another would be getting a new lover.

"I'm single now and looking," Harvey confesses. As for candidates applying for the position, "they'd have to know how to say, 'I'm sorry.' I actually had a list when my Bruce and I broke up years ago. We're still great friends. In fact, I was with him last night. But when we broke up, I sat down and made a list of what it was I wanted. My next lover had everything on the list, but I found out it was the wrong list. One of the most important things you can find in a person is somebody who actually takes responsibility for his own actions. That wasn't on the list. It was not a pleasant relationship, my last one, but you survive. You go on."

As does the gay community, which Harvey is constantly doing benefits for. "You know I'm never shocked by what gays and lesbians do. This is life, and each generation, or each section of each generation gets to do what they want to do, and say, 'Okay, these are our issues.' I support them in any way that I can except for what I deem to be self-destructive behavior."

You know, bareback sex.

"I don't know that it's hard to be a kid and think that's what they want to do. They didn't bury everyone they know. I did. And the truth is, I don't want them to think about burying everyone they know. I don't want that to become part of their emotional past. I just wish people would be a little safer. I haven't seen the new statistics, but I hear they're not happy. Obviously, that doesn't cheer me up. I've never believed that we should allow ourselves to be defined by a disease. That's not who we are."

And that's not who Harvey is, nor is he ready to give us the whole picture. He'll chat about starring in *Kull the Conqueror* with Kevin Sorbo ("He's a doll"), and why he turned down co-starring in the TV series *Nash Bridges* ("I didn't want to move to San Francisco"), but don't expect an autobiography yet.

"Not until the children are dead. Barbara Walters told an old joke the other day. Did you hear it? I guess she was talking about Carol Channing. She said a 95-year-old lady went to court and said, 'Okay, it's time for a divorce,' and the judge asked, 'Why after 70 years of marriage?' She said, 'We were waiting until the kids were dead.' The truth is there are too many people still around. I would never want to write my autobiography and hurt anybody. And the truth always hurts, doesn't it?" ▼

Gianni Versace

Arts cover

egy aims to reveal Versace's creative thought processes by showing how visual art influenced his designs.

And so we find fabric patterns emerging from paintings by Philip Taaffe and other artists, and color palettes rooted in artworks (which are difficult to identify with the confusing index). Permutations of Versace's Medusa logo are seen in various artworks, most interestingly in a sequence

does is not an unlikely endeavor, as in recent years art and fashion have become more seriously intertwined in the pages of art magazines and tony museum shows. But Versace's work seems a bit too playful, gaudy and extroverted to maintain high-art status. This becomes especially apparent when you come across cheesy commercial images of a paint-splattered studio scene featuring men's black briefs stretched over an ornate gilded picture frame. Such transgressions in taste make it difficult to afford Versace the artistic integrity of, say, *Commes de Gar-*

Versace's work seems a bit too playful and gaudy for high art.

of pages that includes a grid of photos of a woman with a wild, unruly hairdo followed by Francesco Clemente watercolors of the mythical shrew. A deer head with an ochre silk scarf caught in its antlers echoes the Medusa form on the next page.

The book also attempts, to dubious ends, to place Versace in a canon of modern artists with such biggies as Picasso, Matisse, Kandinsky, Johns, Rothko, Warhol and other more contemporary figures. A number of gay male artists are on the list, most notably Ross Bleckner and Frank Moore. But this may be undercut by the appearance of macho-man Julian Schnabel, clad in what look like striped designer jailhouse duds, doing a crockery-encrusted portrait of Versace, and spouting off about him: "He embraced [art] like his total embrace of life."

Mixing media as this book

cons designer Rei Kawakubo, who recently collaborated with Merce Cunningham. There's also a political-correctness issue in this volume that's difficult to ignore: Versace definitely patronized a coterie of female supermodels (Kate, Linda, et al), but there's not a work by a female artist here.

There are, of course, some servings of beefcake here — though not in as great a quantity as in previous Versace volumes. We do, however, learn that Versace thought of his models as living statues. According to a short essay by writer and curator Germano Celant, "Versace combined his attraction to the body with a quest for the sublime in existence." Who wouldn't? Versace undoubtedly lead a charmed, visually rich life, but in the case of this disappointing project, it seems more like business strategy than an art form. ▼

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Aiden Shaw

◀ Arts cover

er Sunday. "It's just the most major-league traumatic thing I've ever experienced," he said by phone five weeks after the event. "I was just so desperately scared."

The evening had begun "blissfully," Shaw said, as he and a bandmate from his rock band The Whatevers were making their way to a club in Brussels following a successful gig in Paris. "We were in the country," he recalled, "and it was such a beautiful evening that we laid down on the side of the road thinking, wow, and just looking up at the sky. Little did we know that a car was driving toward us."

Shaw spent a week in intensive care at a Brussels hospital, as doctors operated to repair damage to his liver and to set a metal pin in his broken leg. Friends helped arrange his transfer to a hospital in London, where he recuperated for another two weeks.

"I've got a six-inch scar on my hip and kind of a hole in my knee where they put the pin in, but other than that I've got no other kinds of visual mishaps," Shaw said. "I don't feel desirable, but at the same time I don't care. My friends have been very nice to me, and they say, 'Oh, you still look beautiful.'"

Easy money

Now 32, Shaw was barely out of his teens when he discovered that he was desirable enough that men would eagerly pay to be with him. It was easy money for quick work, and it helped pay for life in the fast lane. "But the prostitution was kind of destructive for me," he said during the December interview. "It compounded my ability to divide emotion and sex."

He used these early years as fodder for his 1996 autobiographical novel *Brutal*, which chronicled the adventures of a hard-partying, drug-loving Londoner who turns tricks before succumbing to AIDS. Aside from the obvious fact that Shaw is still alive, there are other elements in the book spun from his imagination. For example, the book's central character is estranged from his disapproving mother. "But



Aiden Shaw gets cuddlesome.

I've got a wonderful relationship with my mother," he said. "She knows everything, and she's pretty cool."

Shaw grew up in what he called an "upper-working-class" family in northern England, and with seven kids running around, there wasn't much time for his parents to worry much over each sibling's idiosyncrasies. "At about 14, I started dressing very punky, wearing makeup and even dresses. My mother would say, 'People at church are talking about you,' but then she would offer to do my hair and lend me her best jewelry."

He moved to London when he was 18, and selling sex soon became his primary profession. "I was at a disco in London, working as a prostitute, and some of my customers said, 'Oh, you should be in porn. You've got a big dick.' At that age, being given \$1,000 to

do something you'd do anyway is pretty amazing."

Shaw became a performer in dozens of X-rated videos, but it all came to an end about five years ago after he had found out he was HIV-positive. "I lost my sex drive," said the former hunk-for-hire. But Shaw has found relief in a trio of antivirals he has been taking for the past 18 months, and as his health returned, so did his sexual appetite.

"I had just turned 31, and I wanted to prove that I'm still desirable. And I wanted to prove that I'm still in the gutter. I didn't like people thinking I was an ex-porn star, or that I was using porn as a stepping-stone."

Shaw contacted Hot House director Steven Scarborough, who first worked with Shaw at Falcon Studios. "Aiden needed to be back in the limelight," Scarborough said, "and I think this movie will be one of the most talked-about projects in years. It takes to new heights what has been done in mainstream porn."

Still horny

Titled *Descent*, the movie is designed to reflect the nervous breakdown Scarborough felt he was having as filming began, and the sex scenes share the screen with more esoteric imagery. "Steven really pushed for something different," Shaw said, "but I don't care how unusual it is, it still has to be horny. Whether it's the scene where I'm strangling myself or digging my own grave, I still want to have a hard-on."

With Shaw, that hasn't often been a problem. "He's one of the most predictable in terms of keeping it hard," said Hot House art director Craig Latker. But then again, Scarborough added, "he's very particular about who he's going to work with."

Shaw doesn't disagree. "I've always been told that I'm picky, picky, picky. Of course, it's work, but you can't control your dick."

Scarborough matched him with a San Francisco model whose stage name is Marcus Iron, and apparently the on-screen passion is no act. "I've completely fallen," Shaw said during his December visit here to spend time with Iron. "It's been a godsend."

The accident confused matters

next page ▶

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All fall down

by Sweet Lips

Pub crawl: What former royal muckety-muck was spotted on her hands and knees outside a Tenderloin dive that caters to boys who will be girls? No, the poor thing, wig askew, wasn't servicing the bar's well-known rough-trade clientele; she was merely trying to find her sea legs, as they say (she left her walker in a cab last month). Anyway, darling, stay close to the bar next time. It's always there to fall back on when the floor starts to give way.

Speaking of sex and suds — or studs — please well-come back that hunky Brett

Thompson from Down Under to the esteemed staff of the Polk Rendezvous. He'll be on the plank starting Friday, June 5, from 4 to 7 p.m., along with the delightful L. James. So come in and have a cocktail with this saucy Aussie! The remarkably photogenic Brett is allegedly the secret love child of Fernando Lamas and Desi Arnaz Sr. (Also, I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome chef Steve Lawhorn to the PR family.)

That terrific Tyler of Kimo's fame is celebrating his 38th birthday (half my age!) on Saturday, June 13, 7-10 p.m., in the Penthouse. The swinging soirée will be catered by none other than Dennis "Crumpets and Capers" Tyler.

Tumblin' tumbleweed update: You'll be breathing fire after the Cowboys and Cowgirls Chili Cookoff on Saturday, June 6, at 3 p.m. at the ever-popular Gold Room. Yes, Dolores del Ray will be performing her justly renowned *Dance of the Jalapeños*. Don't forget Cowgirl Savannah's Appreciation Party on Saturday, June 13, featuring three — count 'em three

— generations of rough and ready cowgirls: Sweet Lips ('70s), Ronnie Lynn ('80s) and the scintillating Savannah ('90s). Capping off this extravaganza is the 25th anniversary of Cowboys and Cowgirls on Sunday, June 14, at 4 p.m. at Marlena's, with a mesquite-enhanced barbecue and a big surprise show.

The picturesque, albeit rather soggy, National AIDS Memorial Grove is having another work day on Saturday, June 20,

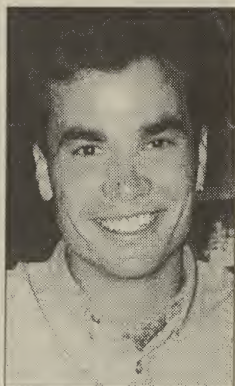
9 a.m.-3 p.m. The NAMG provides the gardening gloves and tools, not to mention bagels and coffee and a donated lunch. All you have to do is show up! Greta Grass will reportedly be on hand, though she's

been forbidden to repeat her "leaf-blowing" antics of yore. The squirrels have avoided the grove ever since her last escapade! As you no doubt well, know, the NAMG is located in the eastern end of the park, north of the bowling greens and west of the tennis courts. Tours of the grove are conducted every Thursday, 9-11 a.m. Call 415-750-8340 for more information.

The Kristy Cruise beer bust at the Lone Star Saloon (Sunday, June 7, 4-8 p.m.) should be quite the do. The bodacious bears at this SoMa hot spot are always in a rollicking good mood and know how to show a girl a good time!

Rumor has it that the Cinch Saloon has been sold! Good luck, Mario and Richard, on your new venture in Palm Springs.

Even though National Masturbation Month has come and gone, so to speak, that's no reason not to check out the action at Hal Call's Circle J theatre on Ellis Street. The porn is provocative and so are the pud-pullers! A little bird (shaped something like a quail actually)



PR pretty boy: saucy Aussie Brett Thompson.

tell me that Sunday afternoons are an especially lively time there! The pews are full and the aisles are rocking! Just make sure to watch your step and keep your shoes on — the floor can get a bit sticky!

Not only is Dale Fisher on the mend, he's back as manager of the Regency II. You looked great the other day, doll. Maybe you can sneak me in to a showing of *The Object of My Affection*. That Paul Rudd is a dish! I loved his towel scene with Jennifer Aniston. What cakes!

Note to Dennis "Chives and Chitlins" Tyler: Don't miss the special erotic cooking class at the Berkeley Good Vibrations store (2504 San Pablo Ave. at Dwight) on Monday, June 8, 8-10 p.m. (\$30-\$40 sliding scale, pre-registration suggested). Spend an evening with herbalist Adam Seller and chef Nishanga Bliss (love the name!), and make your next romantic meal "a delight for the senses." Learn everything from planning menus and selecting produce to herbal and food aphrodisiacs, all the while sampling Seller and Bliss' "sensuous vegetarian snacks." Maybe La Tyler will finally find a use for all those Japanese cucumbers and oversized zuchinis he's been hoarding! ▼

Cocktail Hour

Aiden Shaw

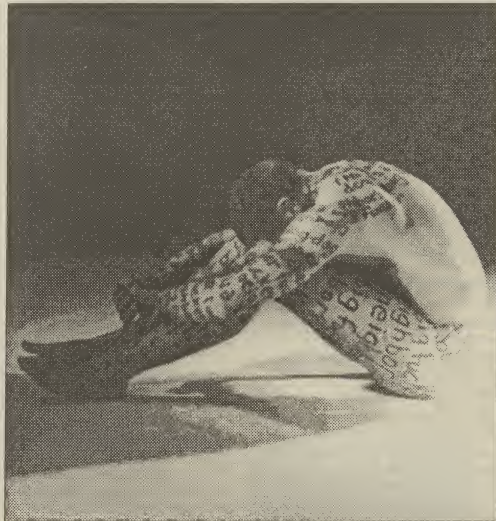
◀ previous page

in his relationship, but Shaw said he is ready to return to San Francisco once he has a chance to talk with Iron. "Everybody around me seems to have expected him to come over after the accident," Shaw said, "but in a way I'm kind of glad he didn't because I didn't need another person to see me like that. When my mother walked in, she started crying, and I had several friends visit me, and their faces just crumbled. I don't need to do that to people who are close to me."

While Shaw's accident hardly seems a blessing, there has been a positive side to the pain and anguish. "Oh my God, the first week back [home] I was already seeing the positive aspect," he said, "and I thought I was almost kooky the way I felt so happy. It was a very grounding experience. Now I'm looking forward to getting back to an ordinary life."

But he isn't looking for a return to porn any time soon. "If anything, this has made me cherish things like tenderness and closeness and emotion even more," Shaw said, "and those are not usually the kinds of things you get on the set, you know."

"At the moment, I couldn't even imagine having sex with anybody, and the idea of being naked with somebody just seems kind of harsh. But I wouldn't mind somebody giving me a cuddle." ▼



Aiden Shaw in his new Hot House video, *Descent*

SF Opera on disk

◀ page 44

(Carmen), Mirella Freni (Micaela), and the Italian stallion Franco Corelli (Don Jose). Sure, they bellow, but it is divinely-inspired bellowing that will give your goosebumps goosebumps (RCA Victor; three discs).

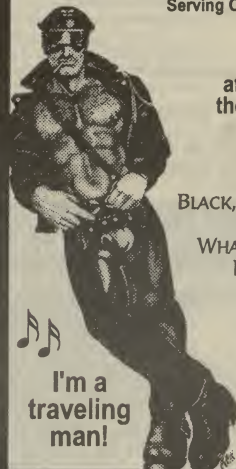
Whatever you do, avoid the lat-

est *Carmen* with La Larmore at her most mannered and irritating. How a woman with such a beautiful voice can get so far off the track is beyond me. Thomas Moser (who sings Peter Grimes here this fall) is the strained Don Jose, and Angela Gheorghiu, flavor-of-the-month (except with the Met's boss, Joe Volpe), is the simpering Micaela. Giuseppe Sinopoli conducts (Teldec; three discs). ▼

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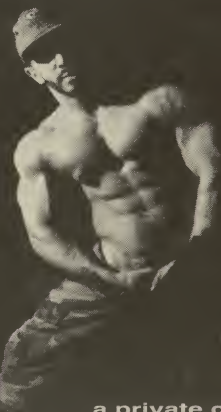


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this Wed, June 10

OUT&ABOUT

Fri 5

Bottoms Up!

The LAB presents eleven artists, who examine sex from a sex-positive position that welcomes new beauty ideals and sexual configurations. Free. Wed.-Saturday. 12pm-5pm. Opening Reception 6pm. The Lab, 2948 16th St. 864-8855.

The Ballad Sopranos

The Kinsey Sicks perform their unique and fabulous dragapella beautyshop quartet. \$16-\$20. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm; thru 6/26. New Conservatory Theater Center, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

The Baltimore Waltz

Play by Paula Vogel: siblings must come to terms with AIDS while traveling through Europe. \$12-\$15.

Thur.-Sat. at 8pm; thru 6/6. Hotel Monaco, 501 Geary. 437-5527.

Dancing Downtown

ODC Theatre and Artistic Director, Brenda Way present an eclectic series of dance performances. \$9-\$28. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm. Sun. at 7pm; thru 6/14. Yerba Buena Center, 700 Howard St. 987-2787.

Disputed Territory

Luna Sea Women's Performance Project presents "Disputed Territory: Sexploration." \$10-\$15. Fri.-Sun. at 8pm; thru 6/26. Luna Sea, 2940 16th St., Suite 216C. 863-2989.

En Drag

Female Impersonation Revue with the incomparable Sexilya Luvsat & Co. \$10. Every Friday at 9pm, 10pm, 11:30pm. Kim's Showroom, 1351 Polk Street. 885-4535.

Gay Rodeo

7th Annual S.F. Bay Area Regional Rodeo featuring, pool parties, Country Western dances and parade and rodeo. \$10-\$52. Thur.-Sat; thru 6/7. Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, San Jose. 2 561-9228.

Haight Ashbury Free Clinic

Haight Ashbury Free Clinic's 31st anniversary auction, dinner, and awards presentation. \$125. 6pm. The Palace Hotel, 2 Montgomery St. 561-5252.

Independent Film Festival

The Best of Independent Film tributes "The Player", "Sex, Lies and Videotape", "She's Gotta Have It", "Drugstore Cowboy", "Under Heaven" and others. Individual \$5. Festival Pass \$35. Fri.-Tue; thru 6/9. Castro Theatre, 429 Castro St.

Night of the Iguana

Actors Theatre of San Francisco re-views Tennessee Williams' steamy, psychological drama. \$10-\$18. Thur.-Sat. at 8pm. and Sun. at 7pm; thru 7/26. Actors Theatre of San Francisco, 533 Sutter St. 296-9179.

One of the Boys

"Stories from the Midwest," solo work by John McGivern. \$15+\$2 drink min. Fridays at 10:30pm; thru 7/31. City Cabaret, 450 Geary. 931-9707.

Palpitations

Keith Hennessy's portrait of a gay heart in love, loss, and liberty. \$10-\$20. Preview 6/4 at 8pm. Thurs.-Sun. at 8pm. 6/6 at 7:30pm; thru 6/13. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness Ave. 861-8972.

Pride Collaborative

"Pride Power Breakfast," a discussion of new directions for LGBT people in the workplace, with guest speaker S.F. Supervisor Mark Leno. Free. 8am. The United Way, 50 California St. 439-4272.

Small Press Traffic

The 10th anniversary revival of Kevin Killian's play "That," about a bisexual couple, Paul and Jane Bowles, who dare to preserve a bisexual universe, in which to stage their melodramas of addiction and obsession.

Up Jumped Springtime

AFROBLUESOULPOWER presents a coming of age play about being gay and African American. Adapted by Colman Domingo from *Brother to Brother*. \$10-\$15. Every Friday. Lessons at 7:30pm. Dancing at 8:45. Masonic Hall, 3903 Broadway/40th St. 510-428-2144.

Women's Dance

Lesbian partner dancing event to the sounds of Swing, Country Western, and Salsa. Sponsored by Gerri Shapiro. \$10-\$15. Every Friday. Lessons at 7:30pm. Dancing at 8:45. Masonic Hall, 3903 Broadway/40th St. 510-428-2144.

Sat 6

ATA Gallery

S.F. theatrical premiere of Sarah Ja-

cobson's "Mary Jane's Not A Virgin Anymore." \$5. 8pm. A.T.A. Gallery, 992 Valencia St. 824-3890.

Art Deco 60s

Over 200 dealers across the U.S., selling furniture, accessories, rugs, pottery, vintage clothing and more. \$5-\$7. Sat. at 10am. Sun. at 11am; thru 6/7. The Concourse Exhibition Center, 8th and Brannan St. 650-599-3326.

Beach Blanket Auditions

Cast replacements for Steve Silver's Beach Blanket Babylon. Immediate employment opportunities for male and female performers. 12 Noon. Club Fagazi, 678 Beach Blanket Babylon Blvd. (Green St.) 421-4284.

Beerfest

A benefit for Face to Face/Sonoma County Aids Network. A festive afternoon of beer and food tasting. \$24-\$28. 1pm. Luther Burbank Center for

Midnight Mass

The wild and crazy 'Peaches Christ' presents "Showgirls." Costumes and audience participation strongly encouraged. \$5. Every Sat. at Midnight. Landmark's Bridge Theatre, 3010 Geary Blvd. 751-3213

New Wave City

Dancing to New Wave music of the late '70s and early '80s with DJs Shindog and Skip. Salute to the Pretenders. \$10. 9pm. King Street Garage, 174 King. 675-LOVE.

Promstitute '98

Klubstitute Polysexual High Fighting Klams present "Promstitute '98; That Sinking Feeling" A parody prom gala and benefit for LYRIC. \$4.98-\$19.98. 8pm. 2050 Bryant. 331-1500 Ext. 3438.

Rainbow Chorus

The Rainbow Women's Chorus presents "Hearts Afire" in concert with Margie Adam. \$12-\$15. 8pm. San Jose Womens Club Theatre, 75 South 11th St. 408-280-7204.

Russian River Comedy Night

Momi Starr on piano. Carla Clay with Open Mic. Free. 9pm. Russian River Resort, Fourth & Mill St., Guerneville. 707-869-0691.

Queer Latina/o Festival

Visual arts, youth theater performances, poetry open mike readings,

Calendare

by Terrance Boykin

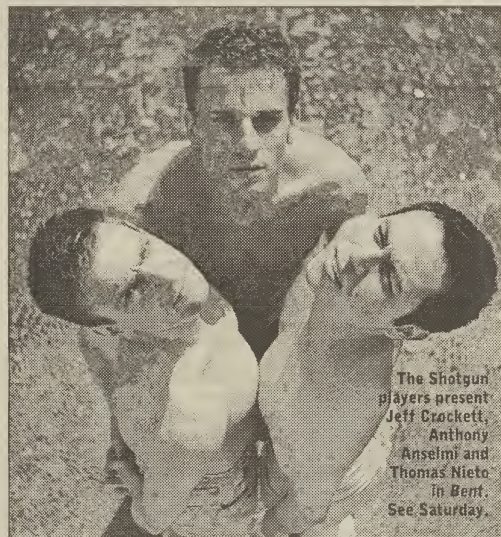


Self as Queen, by Steven Elliott

Queer portraits

One of the highlights of the 1st Annual San Francisco Queer Arts Festival is the debut exhibition entitled *FACE: Queerness in Self Portraiture*. *FACE* features visual self-portraits through photography, paintings, mixed media, and free-standing sculptures. An exhibition of 80 works by 50 San Francisco queer visual artists, the works aim to present an open and intimate experience that reveals the heart of individuality, and the human struggle for affirmation that is inspirational. Curated by Rudy Lemcke and Lenore Chinn, *FACE* is designed to trigger a serious discourse on queer culture through self-expression; not in the abstract, but by looking directly into our own eyes through someone else's image. Among the 80 participating artists are: Cara Judea Alhadeff, Greg Day, Fari-ka, Conrad Hechter, Maxine Kincora, Hienn Nguyen, Fernando Reyes, Jean Weisinger, and Sandra Yogi. *FACE* is a major component of The Queer Arts Festival, a series of cultural events, exhibitions, performances and interpretive programs organized by The Queer Cultural Center (The Center for Lesbian, Gay, Bi and Transgender Art & Culture) and the Harvey Milk Institute. The Festival is produced in collaboration with numerous Bay Area non-profit organizations including SOMAR, The Mission Cultural Center for Latino Art, The Center for African and African-American Art & Culture, and many others. ▼

FACE: Queerness in Self Portraiture opens Thursday June 11 at Somar Gallery, 934 Brannan Street.



The Shotgun players present Jeff Crockett, Anthony Anselmi and Thomas Nieto in Bent. See Saturday.

the Arts, Santa Rosa. 707-887-7031.

Bent

Martin Sherman's Broadway play about two gay men caught in the surreal maelstrom of decadence and torture during the holocaust. \$8-\$10. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm. Sun. at 7pm; thru 7/12. Adeline Street Theatre, 3280 Adeline. Berkeley. 510-655-0813.

Bucheon Gallery

Bay Area visual artists, Colette Calascione, Lisa Clague, and Jeffrey Dugan display their works. Free. Thru 7/1. Bucheon Gallery, 540 Hayes Street. 863-2891.

Crystal Fair

12th anniversary fair includes over 40 booths and vendors of crystals, minerals, and jewelry. \$4. 10am. Sat-Sun; thru 6/7. Fort Mason Conference Center, Bldg. A. 383-7837.

Dolores Park Cafe

Tala Brandeis Photography presents a benefit for The Harvey Milk Institute through a photo exhibition called "Frank's Transformation." Free. 7pm; thru 6/30. Dolores Park Cafe, 501 Dolores St. 584-3530.

Enter, then Pause

Michael Goldfried's hilarious bi-coastal comedy explores the odyssey of a young man in the '90s. Directed by Jeffrey Friedman. \$10-\$12. Wed.-Sun. at 8pm; thru 6/7. Josie's Cabaret & Juice Joint, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Fashion Show

Alistair Monroe and Herve Ernest present 3rd Annual North Beach Fashion Show. A benefit for the North Beach Jazz Festival. \$20-\$25. 8pm. Bimbo's 365 Club, 1025 Columbus Ave. 510-601-TWEB.

and video showcases. Thru 6/26.

MCCLA, 2868 Mission St. 648-3702.

Saturday Night Gay Comedy

Gay comics Suzy Berger, Bob McIntyre, and Page Hurwitz. \$10. 10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Street Theatre Festival

"Family * Diversity" the 4th annual "In The Street" festival featuring Circus of Friends, Le Pamplemousse, High Risk Group and others. Free. Fri. at 8pm. Sat.-Sun. at 12 noon. 6th Street Recreation Center, Harriet St. between Folsom/Howard. 905-5958.

Superfest

An International Film Festival featuring works that address people with disabilities. \$5-\$10. 1pm; thru 6/7. La Pena Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley. 510-845-5576.

Zare Cafe

Josee Andrei, a blind painters works of lush landscapes infused with mystical qualities. Free; thru 8/15. Zare Cafe, 1640 Haight St. 861-8868.

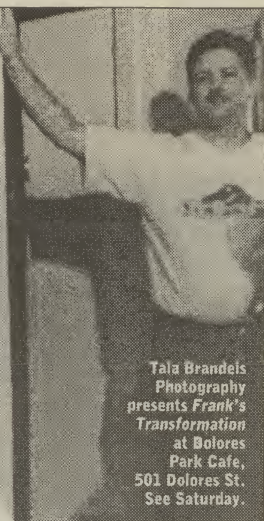
Sun 7

Ave Maria: Mater Dei

Bay Area's acclaimed male vocal ensemble Chanticleer performs "Ave Maria: Mater Dei," \$19-\$29. 7pm. Mission Delores Basilica, 3321 16th St. 392-4400.

A Different Light

Smart Bomb-D, the monthly open mic (helle) for women. Bring explosive work. Free. 1pm. A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro. 431-0891.



Tala Brandels
Photography
presents Frank's
Transformation
at Boleros
Park Cafe,
501 Dolores St.
See Saturday.

Hilos del Sol

Photo exhibit by Mariana Yampolsky of the Mazahua. Free. Artist Reception at 3pm; thru 7/18. Galeria Del La Raza/Studio 24, 2857 24th St. 826-8009.

Kings, Crumbs and Pearls

The Carpetbag Brothers' experimental performance that fuses music, theater and dance. \$8-\$12. 8pm. 848 Community Space, 848 Divisadero.

Rami Kleinstein

Israeli rock sensation will perform at "Israel in the Park." An all day festival celebrating Israel's 50th. \$5-\$10. 12 noon. Sharon Meadows in Golden Gate Park. 281-0839.

S.F. Garden Tour

Self guided garden tour, champagne reception and food from local restaurants benefiting the Stop Aids Project. \$30-\$75. 11am. 360 Eureka St. at 21st. 575-0150 ext. 257.

Silent Auction

Dance Palace Community Center sponsors auction of over 200 items. 10am. Dance Palace, 5th and B Streets, Point Reyes Station. Marin. 663-1075.

Tony Awards

Chris Winslow hosts an evening of music, song, hors d'oeuvres, and door prizes. \$10-\$15. 6pm. Palf's Restaurant, 1686 Market Street. 864-3700.

Mon 8

Brown BoyZ

Proyecto ContraSIDA Por Vida sponsors a drop in space with food, games, and movies for gay and bi Latinos under 25. Free. Every Monday at 6:30pm. PCP/V, 2973 16th. 864-7278.

Dames At Sea

A 1930s Hollywood style parody featuring sailors and sailorettes singing snappy songs and tapping to tender tunes. \$25-\$44. Wed.-Mon. Call for times. Marines Memorial Theatre, 609 Sutter St. 2nd floor. 771-6900.

Gay & Lesbian Parenting

Child care professional, Carol Barton facilitates a two week workshop on the everyday challenges of parenting children ages 0-6. Free. Must register. 7pm. Bananas, 5232 Claremont Ave. North Oakland. 658-1409.

GenderAsian X

IH Kuniyuki and Christopher Lee present a TRANSGenre photo series documenting the compelling transitions of sexual reassignment. Free. Reception 6/5 at 7pm; thru 6/30. The Chat House, 139 8th St. at Minna. 776-9624.

Josie's Cabaret

Gay comedy open mic with June MC; Scott Silverman hosting two hours of raw, up and coming talent. \$5. Every Monday. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Monday Night Movie

Free movie screening of "Madchen un Uniform." Every Monday. 7pm. The Chat House, 139 8th Street. 255-8783.

Tues 9

Cafe Du Nord

Benny Valarde Supercombo, Live Salsa music, plus free dance lessons with Adrian with DJ Antonio. \$5. 9pm. Cafe Du Nord, 2170 Market St. 861-5016.

Feed

S.F. Camerawork presents a unique and humorous approach to food through photographs, film, video, performance and new media. Free. Tue.-Sat. 12 noon-5pm; thru 6/13. S.F. Camerawork, 115 Natoma. 764-1001.

Harvey's

Local cabaret singer and recording artist Robb Williams returns, accompanied by Tom Shaw on piano. Free. 8pm. Harvey's, Castro at 18th. 487-5449.

Wed 10

Artists Warehouse Sale

SFMOMA's gala reception with music and refreshments. Unframed art on sale and selected works are 50% off. Free. Wed. at 5pm; thru 6/7. Fort Mason Center, Bldg A. 441-4777.

The Ballad of Little Mickey

A campy in-your-face musical by Mark Savage about coming out, tea rooms, romance and gay activism. \$10-\$20. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm; thru 7/18. The New Conservatory Theatre Center, 25 Van Ness Ave. 861-8972.

Burning Blue

London's hit play written by former Navy flier D.M.W. Greer. A story about four U.S. Navy fliers whose intense friendship is the subject of a homosexual witchhunt. \$25-\$30. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm. Sun. at 2pm. and 7pm; thru 7/5. Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, 620 Sutter St.

A Different Light

Misha Cohen author of "HIV Wellness Source Book." Free. 7:30pm. A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

A Question Of Mercy

West Coast premiere of David Rabe's stunning and timely drama. Author of "Hurly Burly" and "Streamers." \$15-\$26. Wed.-Sat. 8:30pm; thru 6/28. Magic Theatre, Fort Mason Center, Bldg D. 441-3687.

Traywick Gallery

An art exhibition featuring works on paper by Steve Briscoe, Emilie Clark, and Michael Pauker. Free; thru 7/5. Traywick Gallery, 1316 Tenth St. Berkeley. 510-527-1214.

Thur 11

Bay Area Radical Women

A home-cooked dinner and book review of Leslie Feinberg's book, "Transgender Warriors." \$6.50. 6:30pm. New Valencia Hall, 1908 Mission St. 864-1278.

Best Gay Fiction

Preview reading of the fall publication "Best American Gay Fiction 2" with

Kevin Killian, Stephen Beachy, and Brian Bouldrey and others. Free. 7:30pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

Daisy Anarchy

An exotic solo performance of poetry and song by artist and sex industry worker Daisy Anarchy. \$10-\$15. Thur.-Sat. at 8pm; thru 6/6. Luna Sea Women's Performance Project, 2940 16th St. #216C. 863-2989

Enrique

Performs new rock musical Above and Beyond the Valley of the Ultra Showgirls: a romp thru the seamy side of the rock music business. \$10. 9pm. Thur; extended thru 6/25. Transmission Theatre, 314 11th St. 861-6906.

Men Dancing XV

The San Jose Dance Theatre presents a mixed repertory program of dance techniques and styles. Friday's performance will benefit for "Until There's a Cure Foundation." \$10-\$52. Thur.-Sat. at 8pm; thru 6/6. Cowell Theatre, Fort Mason Center. 441-3687.

Metropolis

The Young Composers Collective Orchestra performs their live original score, that mixes jazz, classical, punk, funk and world music, with Fritz Lang's expressionist silent film, "Metropolis." \$10-\$12. Thur.-Sun. at 8pm; thru 6/6. Venue 9, 252 Ninth St. 289-2000.

Queer Arts Festival

Opening Reception for FACE: Queer expression through self portraiture. \$3-\$5. Tue.-Sat at 11am-4pm; thru 6/27. Somar Gallery, 934 Brannan St. 552-7709.

Selections

Artspan presents an artwork exhibition featuring 20 of San Francisco's best emerging artists. Opening reception. Free. 6pm; thru 6/26. Academy of Art College Gallery, 401 Bush St. 861-9838.

Tina Modotti

The opera "Tina," a new multimedia musical production about the life of famed Mexican-Italian photographer Tina Modotti. \$25. One Night Only. Herbst Theater, 401 Van Ness Ave. 392-4400.

Vida La Viva

Vida La ViVa presents a night of spoken work, live drama, and a video examining racism in the Queer Community. \$5. 8pm. A.T.A. 992 Valencia, 824-3890.

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Grilled New York Steak with bearnaise sauce, onion rings & french fries 11.95

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- Bay Area Reporter

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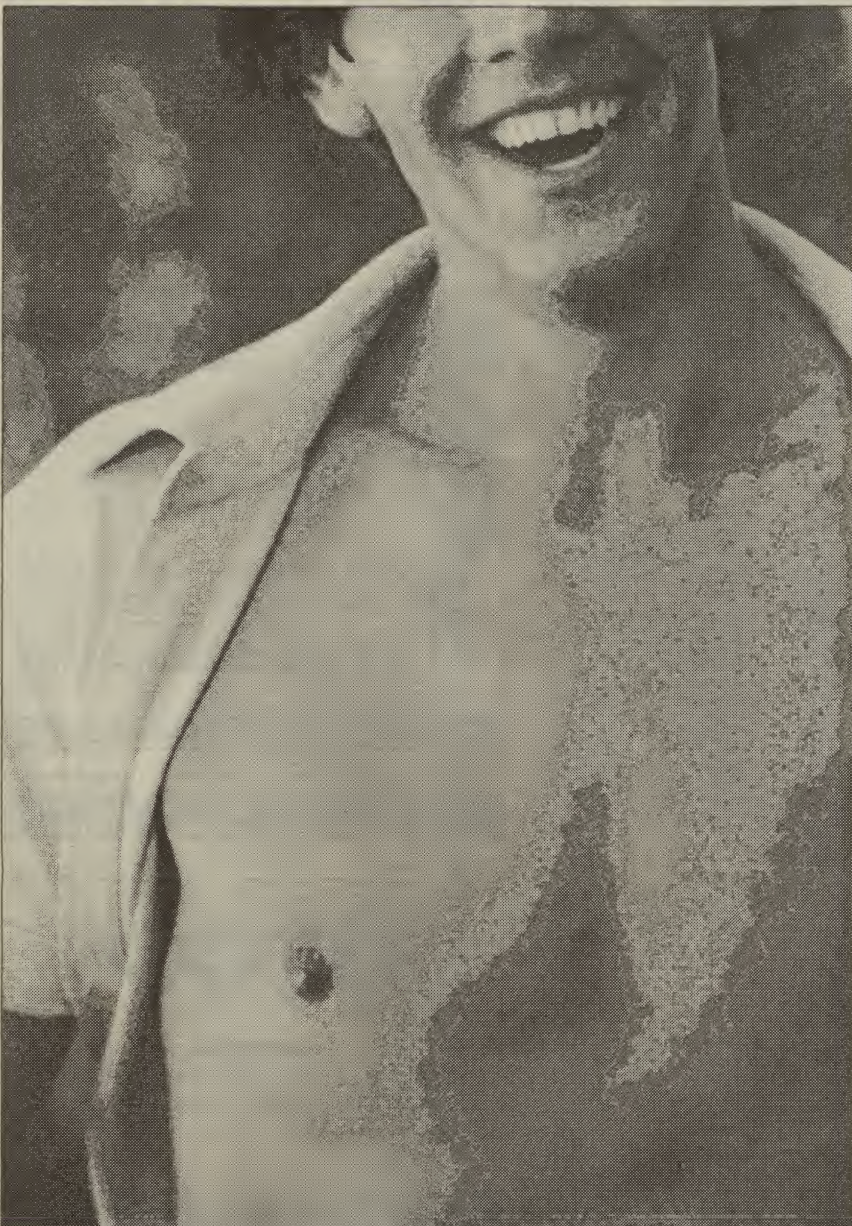
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Hey 3Byte

I called you "my little heart throb", that's not all you got throbbin. Let's be like dogs in heat. Woof woof. ☎ 2300

Embarcadero Bart Fri 4/24 5:30
You: Adorable; dark multicolored sweater, sh9rt brown hair. Me: Black nylon coat, Jeans. We stared, smiled, you got off at civic center, tried to follow, but lost you. Call me. ☎ 2301

Aids Danceathon

You: Tall boy, nosering, green shirt. Me: Tall boy navy vest. Remember th carefree days? I should have said something. Nice jeans > Interested? ☎ 2302

Steamworks-Sunday 5/3

You: Handsome 28yo from Sonoma, goatee, beautiful eyes & smile. Me: Latin. 3-way w/steve. We: Intense connection. Didn't get your number! Love 2 see U again. Please call. ☎ 2304

Steve 4/28 Muni
Castro to Dwtwn. 1:30p Me: late to work after haircut. I got off at Powell, you were getting off at Mont. I should have stayed on > Please call! D. ☎ 2306

Diamond Hgts. Safeway 4/30
We spoke and smiled in produce, checked out. I took your photo in Parking lot You salt & pepper w/black goatee. Me: Going nuts for your smile. ☎ 2306

Greg from St. Pete
Sat. 5/2 met in the Castro. You with a friend. Lost you at My Place. Love to see you again! Please call Jimmy. ☎ 2307

House of Prime Rib 5/3/98
You: Filipino/Hawaiian. Me: Nordic, our eyes met, we smiled lots, but couldn't talk. We could make music together. Call me Dinner? Date? ☎ 2309

Daniel from Univ. Of San Diego
You-21 visiting with three friends. We live six Blocks from Castro. Me-Gave you Rainbow ring necklace. Is that your boyfriend? If not, would you like to meet? ☎ 2404

4/24 Watergarden Buff chocolate
We crossed path several times and said hello. You were with a friend. 4/29 You whistled me on 18th St. @ Castro. You were talking to a friend again. Too shy to talk. Me: muscular Asian You: Buff Black/Asian(?) How about a third chance. Just you and me! ☎ 2400

Joe*Pleasedome 4/26
We danced. I came ask to introduce myself. We didn't exchange numbers. Want to? Rob. ☎ 2401

Vested red cap sexy man!
We keep passing in the Castro. Next time you say HEY, do it at my front door. ☎ 2303

Noah from Muscle System
We met a few months ago walking down Market St. I was with a friend who knows you from your gym. Maybe we could meet again? ☎ 2402

Buena Vista Park 5/6 12 Noon
You walking your choc. Lab, me with friend and his two pugs. Threw your dogs stick, almost lost him over cliff. Sorry. Would like to see you and dog again. ☎ 2405

Market St. Safeway Fri 5-15
11:30 AM you skin-tight black & white pants w/ friend. Me speechless seeing your bigness. Found my voice. ☎ 2500

Moe from South Bay
Met you 2X's at Blow Buddies but was too overwhelmed by your sexiness. To ask for your #. How about we try again? ☎ 2403

5/11 2:30PM Market @ Castro
You: Handsome man w/glasses. Me: Jeans, tan coat, short Hair/Mustache. Saw you on the corner, then again @ Diamond. Would love to meet you. ☎ 2406

World Gym Sun. May 10th
I hope I distracted your workout as much as you did mine! Me-Beard, walkman, black tank. You blue shorts. Spoke in locker room. Hope to chat outside. Call ☎ 2407

Market St Safeway Sat 5/23
Quick smile and nod, back of produce. More smiles, me- checkout: you- still shopping. Me- 5'5", bzzd, purple T. You- little taller, jacket, blue levis, glasses. Let's talk. ☎ 2601

24 Divisadero Sunday 5/24 2pm
You told me about your Beagles. I told you about my layoff. I had a bucket and mop. I liked you. How about dinner? (I'm a good cook!) ☎ 2605

Goden Coffee Shop
Breakfast diner at Sutter and Leavenworth organizer. We shared corner counter. I left and flirted. Can we have coffee Please? ☎ 2408

I lit your candle
At the AIDS candlelight walk. My dog seemed to want to be close to you, so did I. You-white jacket, dark hair, me-shaved head. Call. ☎ 2501

GAM leaving 4 London May 5th
Talked briefly at B of A Powell/Market on Sat May 2. Me GWM would love to meet again. Pls call. ☎ 2502

Hey Alejandro:
5/9/98 You left the coatcheck before I had a chance to give you my #. Still remembering the taste of peanuts in your mouth. Give me a call. ☎ 2503

Civic CTR Muni Sat 5/16, 7pm
You reading book; I said, Hi. I had to board train, but you blew me a kiss from the platform. Pls call; I'd like to blow you...one too. ☎ 2504

Castro Muni underground
Tom hoping one day we can get together again, been thinking about you ever since I saw you. Harry. Forgot to get your number. ☎ 2505

Jr's Walnut Creek May 1
You goodlooking stud boy 6' tall. Me older w/glasses you asked me for directions to 12-20. Please call me your dream. ☎ 2506

River Bus-Guerneville 5/24
You're from Winsor, darkeyes, beard, Lone Star Cap, really shy. I'm silver fox, you thought hot! So are you. You mistook my kiss and left w/your roommate. I am available. Let's talk!!!! ☎ 2600

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

GWM32,5'9"160seeks poz GWM
Seeking GWM 20-45 for friendship and possible relationship. Enjoys quiet times, movies, working out, dinners, travel & going out. Looking for goodlooking male who's stable & honest. ☎ 2310

Attractive Latino
Goodlooking Latino 32yo dark hair, brown eyes, goatee, like to go to movies, dinner, hiking, tennis, travel. Looking for GWM between 25-37yo for a friendship or more. Just call. ☎ 2311

Handsome muscular Italian
GWM, 6'2", 185#, 38, into fitness, travel, romance, and quiet times seeks another HIV- extremely well hung man for monogamous relationship. ☎ 2312

42 HIV+190 bottom Sks hung top
Redwood City, 6'3" handsome 6" cut brn/gm moustache, passionate romantic. Seeking hung top 7" thick or more. Race unimportant, HIV+ proportionate. Sexually open, aggressively passionate, handsome 35-50 smoker ok be a lover not a fighter. I like long hard sessions hairy a + not required. ☎ 2313

Lunch Date-downtown...
Creative professional GWM, 28, ISO lunch date (27-40), Ivy Grad. & HIV-. I enjoys travels and Tango; MoMa & Miro; NYT on Sun; CA zin (and sin). ☎ 2314

Need hot hung HIV- Top. 25-50
I'm seeking relationship with man who enjoys being waited on massaged and cared for, by mid 40s GWM (looks 30s). Call. ☎ 2315

GAM seeks mature GWM for frnd
And possibly LTR. HIV- N/D N/S healthy, Hv/Wt proportionate versatile & slender a +. ☎ 2316

GWM seeking loving son
GWM 40 is seeking men 19-25 4 companion I'm HIV-. I'm very youthful and energetic. You should be healthy clean shaven White or Latino. Honest and sincere. ☎ 2317

I'm tired of 1 nite stands & Playing games
I'm a GWM 39 looking 4 a friend or companion 20-35 4 more than sex. ☎ 2318

All American guy
GWM 6', 175#, 39, handsome, HIV+. Genuine, grounded, fun loving, romantic. Enjoys movies, sports, outdoors, homelife, and walks on beach with dog. Seeks similar (30-45yrs) for friendship/ possible LTR. ☎ 2319

Asian little brothers!
Chinese American, 6', 185#, 40, very handsome, HIV+, seeks Asian little brother to have fun & LTC. Must be younger, smaller & likes big brother type. ☎ 2320

Big N tall Latin
Masculine Latino, 5'11, 190lbs, 31, heavy accent, foreign born. Seeking Whites or Latinos over 25 for friendship or LTR. N/S N/D

GWM 52 fairly good looks Europ. 6', 180#, HIV-, vers. Like travel, cooking, movies, theatre, companionship. Smoker, nondrinker, no drugs. Looking for a relationship with someone 40-50 yrs who matches above. ☎ 2322

Asian male seeing friends
GAM, 38, 140, 5'7", well built, smooth, dark like dining, theatre and outdoors. Seek Wm 25-38, tall, good body for friends. ☎ 2324

30 something GWM?
Attractive GWM, 34, 5'7", 155. In/sbp looking for In/sbp GWM 31-37. Tired of 25yo party boys or 45 yo bores, me too. I like guys my age, interested?? ☎ 2325

Buscando Hispanohablantes..
Bilingual intermediate spanish student, trained bodyworker, seeks fluent spanish-speaker for practice/instruction to trade for massage. Teaching experience preferred. ☎ 2326

Seeking sign language teacher
Trained bodyworker wants to exchange massage for ASL instruction/practice with queer, fun, fluent signer, about twice a month teaching experience preferred. ☎ 2327

Dad seeks Son
GWM, 54, 5'7", 140, masculine top, NS, HIV-, hairy. You: passive, submissive, fit, quiet, serious, HIV-. Needing love and discipline, under age 32. ☎ 2328

Men of color desired
Shy SF GWM, 57, 5'10", 150#. Interested in meeting Black Latino, White, masculine under 50. I enjoy being watched giving blowjobs to HIV- men. No reciprocation necessary. ☎ 2329

Love to suck dicks
Big men 7" or more. GWM, 6'2" can suck on you for hours. On call for you. All races-ages 20-50. Lets be together-evening or late night Yours. ☎ 2330

Artist seeking other artist
Or persons interested in the Arts for fun and good times. ☎ 2331

MuLatto, guy, sexy, educated
And good looking. Seeks financially secure male for fun and good times. ☎ 2332

My perfect mate
GWM, great looking, great body, HIV-, early 30s, successful, grounded, self-actualized, athletic, adventurous, romantic. Seeks same. ☎ 2333

Jungle screams 4 German cream!
Beefy, masculine, blond, German, goodlooking, hairy top, white collar, goatee into jazz, architecture, culture and monogamy. ☎ 2409

GWM HIV- heard 5'8" 135 active
Recently retired art teacher, good cook, humorous, like travel, beaches/Frisbee to Bach, with much to give younger man, any race, bottom, small. Let's share the good things in life. ☎ 2410

ISO Bottom Boy
Masculine, manly, spirited, affectionate WM- tight gymnist build, 5'6", 145lbs. HIV-. Seeks inshape, grounded bottom for fierce, tender sensual connection. L/A/B males welcome. ☎ 2411

Are you serious?
About wanting to be loved? Call me. Me: handsome gym bodybuilder. 47yo-6', 200#. UB: under 55 yo, GWM stocky or muscular, unconventional, versatile and sincere. ☎ 2412

"Scene" Stealer
SGWM (P), extraordinary goodlooking, sincere, kind, multi-talented, fun, 5'11 1/2, 170lbs., in-shape, healthy, energetic-seeking: SGWM, 24-42yo, passionate, natural goodlooks, charm. Dark hair and eyes a plus. For: dating possible LTR. ☎ 2413

If you want you can have
Caring, thoughtful, BM prof. 40s, looking for LTR with experienced WM bottom who's physically and emotionally available as I am and desires a monogamous union. Pls. Be 45-55, clean shaven and under 6', med heavy set OK. ☎ 2414

Ready to walk down the aisle!
GWPM- 34yrs old. 5'11" 185lbs. Enjoys travel, reading, hiking and Foreign movies. ISO 30-40 yrs old who is thoughtful, considerate and kind. That's all I am asking for. ☎ 2415

Partners for life
Handsome Italian 52, 5'10", 210#, wh/br, tattoos, stable, honest, open mind/heart, ISO monogamous LTR (friends first, safe sex later) N/S, N/IIII/d, HIV-neg, attractive spirit/mind/body, near Walnut Creek preferred. ☎ 2421

HIV+ E. Bay Top wanted
Black, Brown or dark tan preferred. HIV+ bottom, 36, 6', 185, Blue/brown, moustache smoker is looking for Concord/Antioch area 35+ yr old Boy friend for domestic bliss. ☎ 2420

A few of my favorite things...

Long walks, bike rides, your hot breath on the back of my neck, your body pressed against mine. GWM, 39 y/o, 5'7", 140#, NS/D, Vegetarian. ☎ 2422

Goodlooking but lonely

Tan handsome 6'1", 180#, 43, good body built seeks vanilla to leather for opera to Folsom, European, Latin. No kids. Ads work? ☎ 2423

ISO: A new friend..

To hang out with. Nice guy, 45, Italian, 6', 175#, varied interests, motorcycle rides (on the back). Adventurous, witty, fun. Take a chance. ☎ 2424

30's GWM ISO 30's GWM who is:

Intelligent, funny, sexual, responsible, strikingly handsome. In shape, smooth, romantic energetic, silly & sincere. Who loves: music, travel, movies, food & wine, laughter, time with friends, time alone. ☎ 2610

40yo GWM 6'1" 190lb with white hair & beard

seeks "normal guy" who can enjoy life, but not to excess. Willing to try, explore & love. Please reply. ☎ 2507

Attractive guy next door type

Attractive GWM, 6'2", 175#, young 40, professional, clean cut, very smooth, top, seeks similar. I am romantic and love to get physical. Desire fun times and also LTR. ☎ 2508

Seeks goodlooking Asian male.

Attractive GWM, German/American student, 24, blonde hair blue eyes 5'11", 150# smooth chest, athletic into volleyball, backpacking, new to San Fran, somewhat shy, sensitive, seeks Asian/Pacific Islander. ☎ 2509

Looking for..

A gym buddy liking bike rider flexible schedule bonus good sex sessions. ☎ 2510

My baby got blue eyes

Cute GAM 32, 5'7", 135# HIV+, looking to date a GWM-Like blond/blue eyes, height/weight proportionate and attractive, age is open, clean shaven preferred. ☎ 2511

HIV+ seeks friends or more

I'm Latin, 27, attractive, 5'7", 165lbs, stable. I like movies, weekend travel, and natural things. Seeking Latin or whites over 21, NS, no bar frys or chatroom addicts. ☎ 2512

Buscando un poco de amor

GWM professional looking for interesting Latino. 5'9", 160#, 36yo Lt brn/blue eyes interested in Latin arts & culture & bicycling cooking & theatre. Looking for masculine Latino 30-45 pref stocky. ☎ 2513

Couple seek slave

You need SM, CBT, chastity and use. Serve Master (37, 5'11" 165# white) and boy (25, 6', 165# black). Curious? Go ahead! Call and find out. ☎ 2514

Service for older gentlemen

30 yo strong masculine queen loves older men (40-80) may I service you on a regular basis? HIV-, just be a real friend. ☎ 2515

HIV+ Blk 5'10", 120#

Healthy middle age man with good physical appearance seeking to meet a guy who has a lean physical appearance also, for friendship, weekend trips, companionship and make more. ☎ 2516

Very hairy 37yo GWM Seeks

Goodlooking GWM for friendship or poss. relationship. Blonde hair/blue eyes +. Me: smoker Don't drink or drug, very cuddly 165lbs, tattooed-pierced. I'm goodlooking and very loving man. Let's talk! ☎ 2417

Big and Tall Dept.

6'8", 350# GWM, 40- sports fanatic, gourmet cook or dining out? Movies or theatre, sarcastic humor; sentimental; russian/russian week-ends; for dating or maybe more. ☎ 2602

If I only had a brain

GWM 5'7" 140#, 47 Br/bl, looking for buds capable of conversation beyond size stats and gym visits. Doctors and anyone else operation with a sharp mind a plus. ☎ 2603

Love a Liberation

Fit sane GWM, 40s, Healthy poz, 5'9", GWM, 40s, healthy poz, 5'9", 165lbs, hry chest, drk hr, spiritual, depthful, relating, you: Top, taller, masculine, no vices. ☎ 2604

Russian River area husband Mat'

ISO same, 44, GWM, joggers body, BS, BJ, into fitness, plants, parents, NPR, literature, a good laugh. Job is seasonally demanding, you shouldn't be. Carnal comes after connecting, cuddling, commitment. ☎ 2418

GWM seeking GWM Collegeboys

Cute GWM 26 y/o, 6'1", 180#, seeks other cute W/M, 18 to 30 for friendship and fun. I have short brown hair green eyes. ☎ 2419

Just hold me

GWM 28yrs, 5'7" 1/2, 160#, brn/brn. Lkng 4 someone 2 hold on hot sultry nights. HIV+ Lkng 4 TL U 28-35yrs. I love animals, live theater, museums. Let me hold you. ☎ 2416

Dad needed

Your tongue down my throat, your hard dick up my ass. Boy available for long term training. GWM, 5'7", 140#, mustache, goatee, tattoos. ☎ 2606

Summer Love, Eternal friends...

GWM 23, seeks GAM under 27 for short term relationship, now long term friendship, after the summer. I'm medium build, easy going non smoker, fun to be around. ☎ 2607

Fun Loving Easy Going

Man-Italian/French cleancut HIV-, seeks other men, Latino < Italian, fair haired for dating and possible LTR. ☎ 2608

Elegant senior wants younger

Man for sophisticated intellectual and physical erotic play. Very verbal, upper Haight my place. ☎ 2609

ISO pernanant master/couple

Total Asian slave, experienced, eager to be owned. 5'8", 150, 36, HIV-, no games. Seeks full time position as domestic servant and sex slave. ☎ 2611

Horny GAM seeks GWM bottom

Friend or pos. LTR. HIV-, healthy, N/D, small build, under 5'11. Enjoy fun time on reg. basis. HIV+ proportionate mature guy +. ☎ 2612

SEEKING ADVENTURE**Man's man**

I'm very handsome, masculine, muscular, genuine GWM 30, HIV-. Looking for very sensual hairy top-man with big moustache and big dick for hot sex, friendship and maybe more. ☎ 2334

Hot oral service for GAM

6'2", 195lbs, GWM has deep-throat for smooth masculine in-shape, Asian cocks (over 5"). Fuck my face. Play with my tits. Shoot on my hairy chest. No recip. necessary. ☎ 2335

Body touch exchange

Attractive masseur, tall, great body, creative hands, 30s, wants to exchange sensual massage or oil wrestling with goodlooking, well-fit guy; great for gym goers, curious, 4-hand massage! too ☎ 2336

Battle for top spot

GWM 33 5'10", 175lb, smooth tan defined with hot tight hole seeks Blk. or Lat. wrestling opponents. Minimum rules maximum action. Can you tame this cocky white boy? ☎ 2338

European bottom sks tops

Masculine, str&acting, nice European bottom, 5'7", 175#, blond/blu, goatee, hairy chest, seeks masc. experienced handsome tops or gay couples for discreet encounters. ☎ 2339

Hot 40yo top seeking yng

Bottom boy who loves to suck & be fucked and please older man. I'm HIV- you should be 2. 3 way and group is ok. Bring your boyfriend. ☎ 2340

Latino bottom seeks tops

Latino cute 38yo dark hair, brown eyes. Inshape, want to get fucked by Dwarf all ages welcome. ☎ 2341

Wkend afternoon play 4 hairy M

WM 40-70-Oakland-good shape, 140#, needs buddy for video J/O, oral action my place, must have hairy legs and in-shape. ☎ 2342

Sit on my face tonight

Very handsome & hot Italian, 44, 6', 170#, moustache & beard. Excellent, in eating ass... Come & experience the best! Safe!! ☎ 2345

Hairy, cuddly man wanted

Me: visiting SF 5/16-6/12. GWM, 48 y/o, 6'3", 215#, balding, clean shaven, moderately hairy. You: any age/race. Both:passionate, love making love with another man kissing, oral, uninhibited. ☎ 2337

7 hour suck slut

Mindless slow wet. Cute late thirties blond 5'10", 145. Young boy butt licked, also likes coming and nude beaches, no strings, cocks pref. ☎ 2428

GWM age 40 blind/blu gdlnkg

HIV-, 5'11, 160lbs, muscular seeks buddy in Sonoma Cty. for fucking & heavy ass eating. HIV- only, safe!! ☎ 2344

Wanted: Hot top

After you've worked on my 7" cock and rimmed me, I'll suck your big cock till' its rock hard. Then fuck me long and slow for at least an hour. Sound hot!! Call me. ☎ 2345

Black studs who like to...

Kick back, get great head & drop a load. Should contact me ASAP. Castro location, 12-5am sex by hot Italian, 45, 6', 180, beard, buzzcut, handsome. ☎ 2346

Willing to service

Hot, hunky, muscular men for cock massage and BJ. ☎ 2347

Masculine straight mature WM

Would like cock and balls shaved followed by full body hands on massage with extended climax delaying cock & ball play! ☎ 2348

Want to get fucked

GWM, 5'11", 170, HIV-, N/S, N/D, like suck cock and get fuck and play > Age and race not a factor > Lets have fun. ☎ 2349

Two hot bears in E Bay W/Big Red

Goodlooking, bearded, hairy, 48/41, 6'3"/5'10", 240/235, T/B, ISO masc. men for hot, safe sex at our place in the suburbs (close to Bar). Discrete, honest, no strings. B/Straight ok.. ☎ 2350

Visiting New York?

Hot German Daddy, 54, 6'1", mous. Big uncult dick will meet large Hirsute bodybuilder bottoms. ☎ 2351

Gulp it down real deep

WM 40s, HIV-, very masculine good shape, dominant, verbal seeks very submissive HIV-, cocksucker with obedient tongue and hungry deep throat for regular long sessions at your place in SF. ☎ 2352

Hung guys wanted!

I am seeking guys who are hung (9") inches or more for fun and good times. ☎ 2354

Use me as your sex slave.

Torture subject, and urinal, for one top or many. Me: 39, skinhead, HIV+, tattoos, ok shape. You: sadistic, imaginative, demanding, merciful. CBT, TT, suck, fuck, piss, high pain thresh-hold. Safe!! ☎ 2355

Big top guy

26 yo N/S seeks smooth muscle man for discreet fun, N/S married guy welcome. I'm 5'8" medbuild GWM, new to Bay Area. ☎ 2426

Big pecs muscle dad

Wants you on your knees for pec play, verbal discipline & spanking. Dad/son/coach scenes. ☎ 2427

East Bay older man

You don't have to be beautiful! you just have to be big-cut, and like to be naked, and like to be sucked, and fuck me what ever you like. No cock rings please. ☎ 2429

Attention assfucking tops!

I want to get gang banged. Stocky, 46, white bear, shaved head/beard. Line up and marathon fuck my hungry ass. Your turn maybe next. Any race/age. ☎ 2430

Smooth musc. sks hairy bears

Me: 40, 5'10", 170lbs, HIV+, NS. You: very hairy, bigger weight proportionate. NS. Into mutual FF, TT, WS, bondage, cuddling, hugging, kissing & affection. ☎ 2431

Seeking man tonight

Submissive black bottom available in the evenings & some weekends. ☎ 2616

Wanted: Hot HIV+ top

I'll suck your big cock till' hard. Fuck me long and slow for hour(s). Also, passionate kissing, tit and ball play/torture. Me: middle aged, good looking, 5'11", goatee, workout, br/hzl, HIV+, ISO regular buddy, not LTR. You: under 40, any race, top, safe sex, can keep it up, no drugs (pot OK) or heavy drinkers. ☎ 2432

Exactly 30 words:

WM 41, 6', 175, masculine, handsome, real nice dick, wants to experience safe, discrete glory hole, maybe aroma, not comfortable with public places like bookstores, sex clubs, etc. Sincere only. ☎ 2433

100% Bottom

Handsome, masculine WM, 40, 5'10", 150lbs, smooth & trim with stache looking to serve dominant masculine top. Make me squirm & moan. ☎ 2434

Dominant tops

GWM bottom seeks men any race for sex. Especially long time sucking and fucking. Yours for pleasure. ☎ 2435

Dateless and skinned in Portland

I am a very light skinned Black & Wjote bpu 22 yo, in P-town. I seem to be no ones type here since I'm Bi-racial. People say I look Porto Rican. ☎ 2436

Small slender men 18-40 wanted

By 53 yo masseur who enjoys massaging slim lean men. Free professional licensed one hour Swedish massage daytime Haight/Panhandle area. Taoist. Erotic massage also available after Swedish massage. ☎ 2613

Want to get in you!!

8 thick inches. Uncut on an inshape, goateed handsome 38 year old blond. I want sincere younger bottom guys who want to play and get it right! ☎ 2614

Amazing piss sensation

My deep throat will envelop your slit and bring your balls and bladder to explosive release. Under 35. Same day or night callback. ☎ 2615

Come on down!

WM, 57, 5'6", 150, graybalding seeks slim oral bottom who enjoys giving head and getting fucked. Age/race unimportant. HIV-, I'm a smoker own place. ☎ 2617

Good head for Latinos

Under 27, HIV-, who are in shape. By GWM, 23, brn/hzl, HIV-, discretion assured. NO fats/fems. ☎ 2618

Hot healthy hung HIV-

Man, seeks same, 37, 20-50 years' young and versatile for sex, fun & possible LTR. Leave your #. ☎ 2619

Erotic touch

Healthy Asian with smooth body likes to be touched all over. When aroused, will want to be sucked off or fuck you. ☎ 2620

Get naked kick back and get

Sucked, great blow-jobs for horny, white, masc., trim guys with generous cut, man-sized cocks & balls. Talented hot mouth & tongue takes ur load, married men welcome! I'll suck you dry!! ☎ 2621

Oral/Anal

Oral/anal bottom looking for fun time with hot handsome, tall, well-endowed GWM 35-55. I am 5'8", salt and pepper, smooth with hairy legs, small moustache. ND, aroma okay. ☎ 2622

Hairy masculine bear

Hry masc bear, 6', 200# looking for hry J/O buddy. Into hot verbal man on man sex. Sniffing, licking, talking dirty. Enthusiastic for masc. men. U/B. Hairy preferred. E. Bay preferred. ☎ 2623

Butt action

BLK healthy HIV+ 50+. Into clean ass eating any age race your place. ☎ 2631

ISO Marin SF hung GM

Tis HIV- pussy is ready, & hot for your cock. I deep throat suck. Then you fuck my tight ass. Hard as we cum GWM 5'2" 115# 55yr hot mouth and ready. ☎ 2624

Top this!

GBM 38 6' 195lbs hairy and a bottom looking for a top to have fun with you be easy going, fun person. ☎ 2625

6ft Man Boy Insatiable bottom

Hairy built white male offers great head and clean talented butt for hung man 35 + all welcome, flexible schedul, fun your pleasures, call me. ☎ 2626

Ready for ownership?

Daddy/master:GWM 6', 165#, fit, intelligent, 50s, stable, successful. You/slave: lean, smooth or shaven, submissive, obedient, need direction & security. Sane SM/BD, have dungeon. ☎ 2627

Young smooth BM

18-28, thin, small framed, big? Like to have it worshipped? Trim WM, 50 5'10" 160# wants to service you. No reciprocity must be clean. No anal. ☎ 2628

Older healthy HIV+ bottom

55, hard body toned 5'11", 170#, seeks top for fucking, sucking, kinky ok. ☎ 2628

Coveralls/Overalls

& other working mans uniform wear, masculine WM 36, seeking other masculine men to explore uninhibited goodtimes. W/S & ranch a plus. ☎ 2630

Gulp it down real deep!!!

WM 40s HIV- very masculine good shape dominant verbal seeks very submissive HIV- cocksucker with obedient tongue and hungry deep throat for regular long session at your place in SF. ☎ 2632

30's GWM ISO GWM who is:

Intelligent, funny, sexual, strikingly handsome, responsible, in shape, smooth, silly and sincere. Who Loves: music, movies, travel, food & wine laughing, time with friends, time alone. ☎ 2633

FETISHES**No reciprocity**

I take orders to rim & then you fuck, then you order me to clean off your cock, then you order me to leave. ☎ 2356

Diapers!

Seeking daring, fun and audacious guys into wetting, regression, submission, boyish pranks, or just playing baby. ☎ 2357

Sock boy sought

By aggressive WM. Forced outdoor sockwalks, BD, VA, forced smelly sock worship, assigned shoes/socks, humiliation & control. Must crave being forced to go around in stockinged feet. ☎ 2358

Lookin' for a fight!

Meet in my gym, get bare-assed, step into the ring, fight like pitbulls! No rules, no holds barred, top-out or knock-out. Hairy muscled brawlers my meat!! ☎ 2359

Dildo pig wanted

For mutual butt plowing, also into WS, TT, & FF (small hands). Me: 40, 5'10", 170lbs, goatee, tattoos, HIV+. You: 35-55 in shape and read to play. ☎ 2360

Submission-curious Black boy

30, 6', 170-5lbs, youthful athletic, jock type, into playing and watching sports, seeking large, older daddy-type. Big dicks muscular, hairy body, dominate A+ + ☎ 2361

Adaptable, obedient, dutiful, Senir

Male is available for Prof., married men who need alternative, pleasures. SF or Santa Rosa. ☎ 2362

Generous sexy handsome couple

30's HIV+, white, in great shape, seeks well hung top man, 30-47, to make home video. You must be verbal, long lasting, rough. We like ski masks, tops, S/M. ☎ 2437

I'm thirsty

Man with probing tongue and throat wishes to explore your piss slit, experience the release of your full bladder and balls. Be under 35. Same day/night call back. ☎ 2634

Do you like being tickled?

Goodlooking WM, 35 masculine, open-minded, wants very sensitive men under 45 for tickling sessions. Prefer in decent shape, masculine, willingness to be vulnerable. Straight/nonsex. Fine. ☎ 2635

Super thirsty real nice guy

Dreams of relieving your brimming balls/bladder via oral worship of your hose, any size ok, uncult a +, best attached to a trim bod near my own 5'9", 160#, 32" waist. ☎ 2636

Corporal punishment meted out

To deserving individuals. Trained to serve and suffer for the pleasure entertainment of another. Only those in need of serious training and abuse need apply. Subject should be in good shape, 18-38, no fantasy trips/first timers. ☎ 2637

Big men big dildoes

GBM, 44yo, 5'11", 250lbs, hung, big tits, seeks other big & hefty men into mutual dildee pleasure, discretion, be big sexy & ready!! ☎ 2638

Sonoma self-suckers wanted

Lt me rim you while you suck yourself off you jackoff while you suck yourself or you jack off in public or in my car as I drive and watch. ☎ 2639

Bondage for Asians

WM, 50, will strip, tie you up, play with your cock, balls, tits and make you cum. Muscular a plus. ☎ 2640

Submissive handy/person TV maid


Seeks attractive Lady in need of home repairs, gardening, party help etc. Have truck, tools, and attire. Very obedient in Hotpants and mini's... Discreet. ☎ 2363

COUPLES**European bottom sks. gay couple.**

BAY AREA REPORTER PERSONALS

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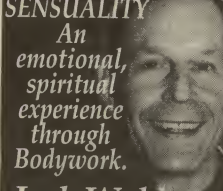
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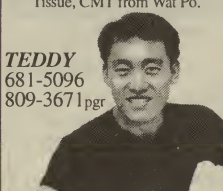
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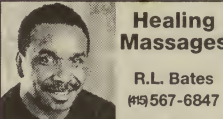
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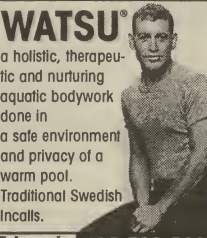
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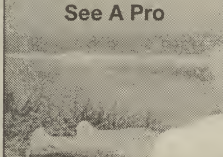
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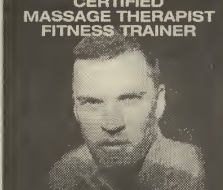


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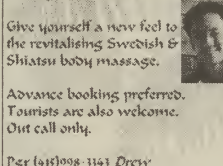
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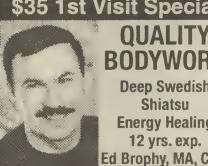
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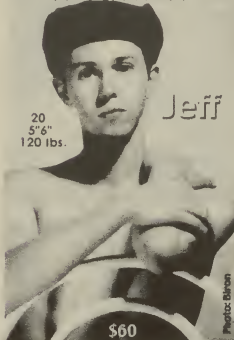
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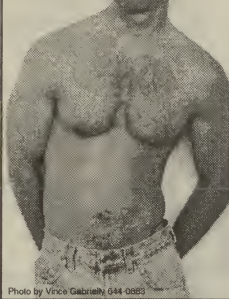
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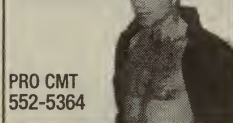
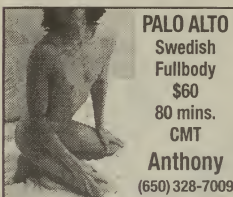
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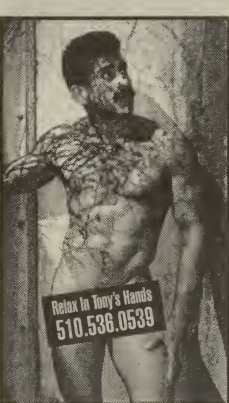
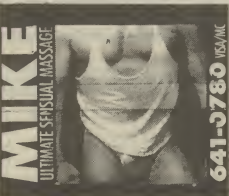
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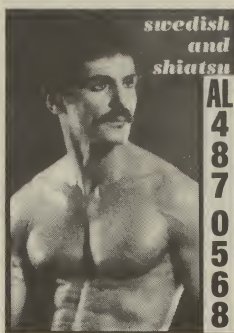
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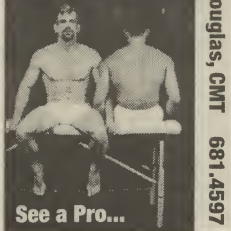
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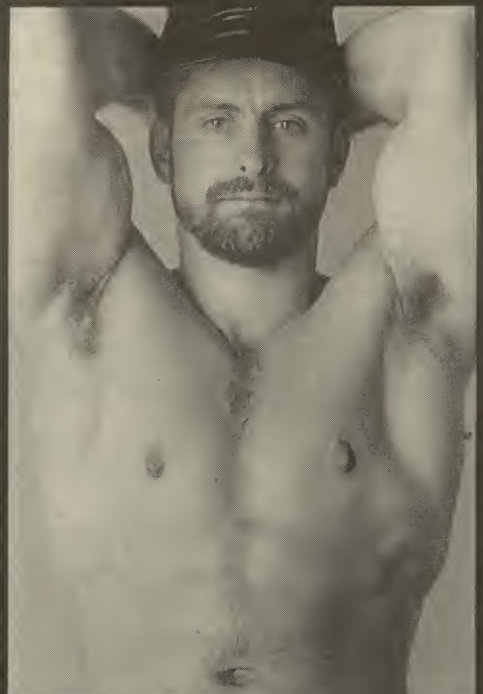
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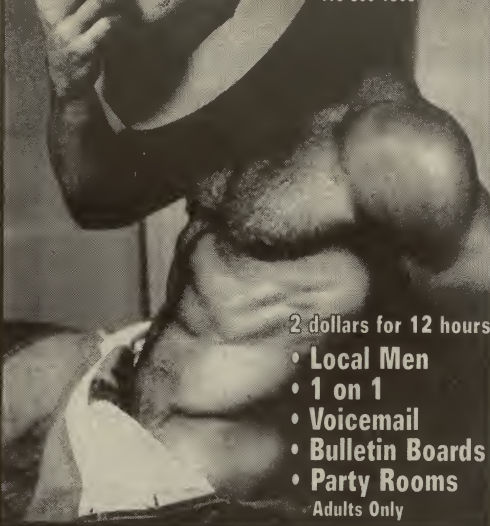
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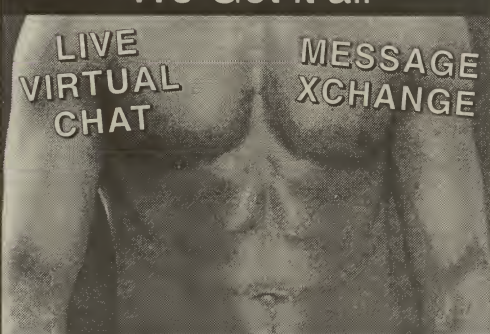
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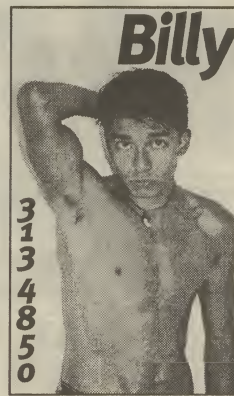
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39yo top 6'1", 195#, 7" uncut, flat top
Gd. lking. Into bondage, S/M, W/S,
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Beginner-? Have playspace & equip.
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Mohawk sinister, goatee
6', 195, buffed, w/playroom
Mild to Wild

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Twin mounds of pleasure!
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GD Klink Foot Top 39yo, 6'1", 195#
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All acts of love and pleasure are my rituals 24hrs In/Out 565-5561

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All buttplay scene.

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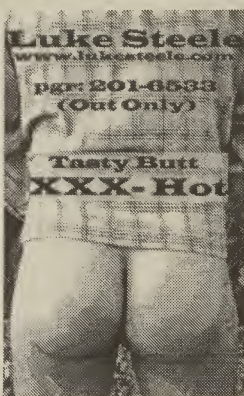
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Dominant top, love to be serviced
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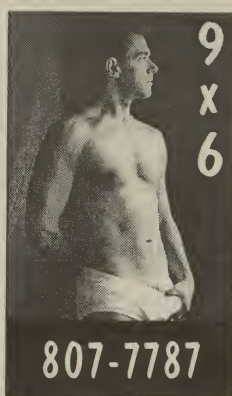
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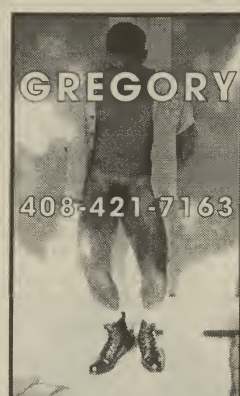
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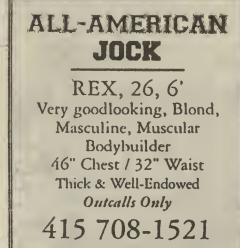
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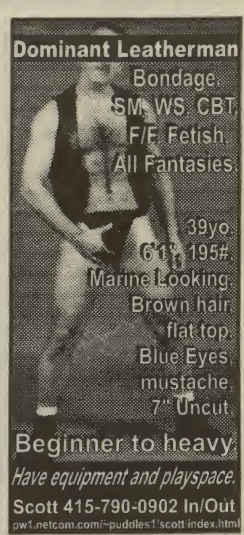
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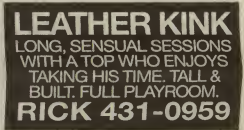
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All Fantasies.
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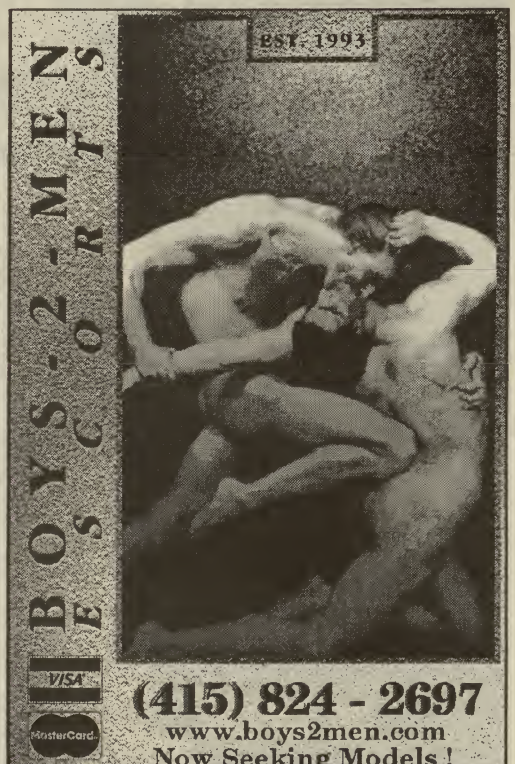
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50 ch, 32 wst. Cool Pkcs
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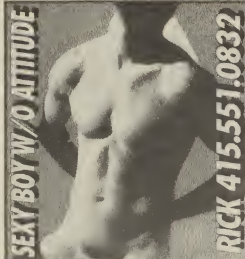
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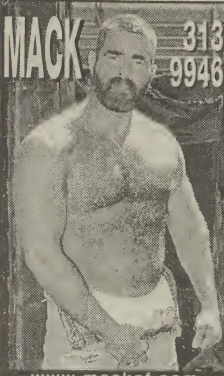
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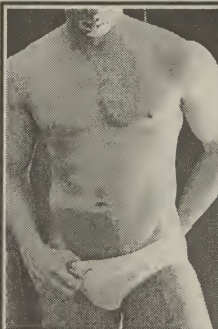
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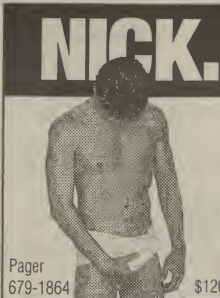
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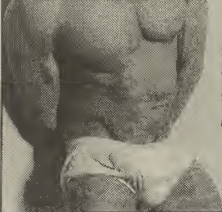
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Some...er...reading

Titanic director James Cameron may believe he's king of the world, but we have another candidate. In the face of blockbuster movies with budgets larger than the gross national products of South American countries; in the glare of high-definition TV, laser-disc technology, and the on-line universe; despite record-breaking audiences for huge Broadway musicals, blockbuster art shows, and popular music CDs that sell in the zillions, we still believe in the ultimate supremacy of the written word.

Theatre, cinema, symphony, opera, ballet: not only are they created as collaborations of artists; on the receiving end as well, they are all intensely communal experiences of art. The fact that a room full of other people is there along with you for the spectacle or musical adventure, for the comedy or tragedy unfolding onstage, is an integral part of the experience.

By contrast, when you read a book, there's no one in the picture but you and the author's voice whispering away in your head. You are experiencing the book at your own pace, enjoying the natural rhythms of language at your own tempo,

creating characters out of stock photos in your mind's eye. You can go back and re-read, you can skip ahead to the good stuff. Reading itself is a creative act.

That's why we think books are here to stay. Let's leave aside for now the matter of electronic vs. print media: when have you ever yearned to curl up in bed with a good laptop? Scrolling down doesn't feel quite the same as turning a page. But whatever form the books of the 21st century take, we suspect they will continue to take up space — in our bookbags or our memory banks, and in our interior life.

Even the boffo 20th-century art form itself, film, could not exist without literature, which has given to cinema its narrative template, as well as yielded up its most prized stories for the telling.

In our annual summer reading issue, our writers present a few of the books that have made some kind of deep impact with them, and with no computer-generated effects. Novels, poetry, fashion, art, sociology and sex: we think they've laid out a nice little spread. Don't be afraid to commit to a little extracurricular reading yourself. ▼



Green acres

by Jim Nawrocki

Farm Boys: Lives of Gay Men from the Rural Midwest, edited by Will Fellows; The University of Wisconsin Press

Don't let the title or the book cover mislead you — *Farm Boys* is not a collection of gay erotic confessionals with a rural theme. There's no doubt that such a book would find a big audience among gay readers, because the ideal of the corn-fed, wholesome heartland male is a favorite gay icon, which has inspired many gay fantasies. But few books have attempted to explore the realities of growing up gay in a rural setting, and *Farm Boys* does this with unflinching honesty, as well as compassion and beauty. For these reasons, *Farm Boys* is an important contribution to gay studies.

Perhaps the most appealing aspect of *Farm Boys* is the fact that editor Will Fellows lets his subjects speak in their own voice. In his introduction to the book Fellows explains that he felt duty-bound to preserve the uniqueness of each story: "In preparing these narratives from interviews, I have seen myself as something of a midwife, listening to men who had something to say and delivering their experiences and perspectives to the reader in their own distinct voices." Because Fellows grew up on a Wisconsin dairy farm, he also brings to the collection his own perspective as a "farm boy," and his empathy and

experience enable him to provide a helpful framework for the collection.

Fellows collected nearly 80 interviews in 1992 and 1993, and he presents 37 of them in the book, grouping them chronologically into three sections: those who "came of age" before the mid-1960s, between the mid-1960s and 1970s, and between the mid-1970s and 1980s. The subjects were recruited through classified ads that Fellows placed in gay publications throughout the Midwest. He uses pseudonyms for many of his subjects (at their request), but uses real names, and in some cases even photographs, for the rest of his subjects. Although the focus of the collection is the gay experience of these men, Fellows also allows them to talk about farm life in general, and in so doing he provides the needed context for these "life stories." (For those unfamiliar with the ways of farm life, he also includes a helpful glossary of farm-related terms, as well as introductions to each section that provide some historical background.)

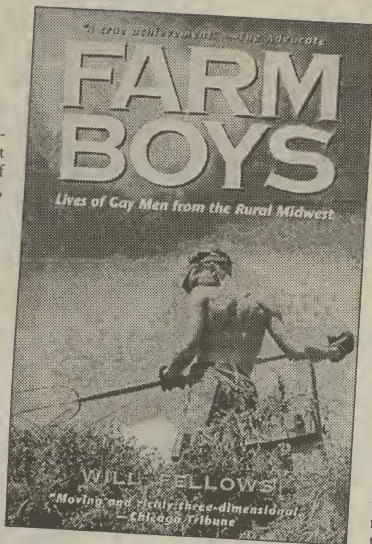
In many ways, *Farm Boys* is a book that can be classified as cultural anthropology. Like a pith-helmeted ethnographer chronicling the way of life of some remote culture, Fellows has traversed the American Midwest with a tape recorder, transcribing and relating his tales with a concern for transmitting them as purely and completely as possible. The result makes for fascinating reading.

Better late than never

The first piece in the collection is one of the most memorable. It's the tale of an Ohio man, born in 1909, who did not attain a full realization of his homosexuality until he reached his 80s. Despite the lateness of this awareness, however, he recounts numerous gay experiences from his youthful years, experiences that he was somehow able to rationalize as something other than an emerging homosexual identity.

Not surprisingly, many of the narratives deal with the rigors of traditional farm life, and many of them speak with disdain about the strictures of their religious upbringing. While some of the subjects display obvious pain about the guilt inflicted on them by the conflict between church morality and homosexual desire, others present an admirable self-reliance. "God made me, God loves me, and I'll duke it out with God when the time comes," says one subject about his refusal to practice the sexual abstinence proscribed by his church.

One of the points Fellows makes in his introduction is the fact that many of those who answered his classified ads were clearly interested in either relating, or reading about, the erotic experiences of real farm boys. Fellows rightly steers away from exploiting this aspect of the stories, but he



up gay on the farm.

The narratives Fellows has collected are as much a portrait of the changing lifestyle of the American farmer as they are a picture of gay farm life, and it's a testament to the strengths of this book that it functions on this level as well. Many of Fellows' subjects talk about the great transitions in American farm life over the last half-century, and lament that much has been lost to modernization and consolidation.

There is much beauty in the many voices that make up *Farm Boys*. Though almost all of the subjects are not professional writers, their narratives often ring with a kind of homespun poetry. One subject, for example, describes his personal development in this way: "I've been influenced not only by strong, clean-washed men with rolled-up sleeves, but also by women with flour on their hands and aprons around their waists, standing behind the screen door and waving at me when I got off the school bus." For moments like these, and for the wide scope of gay life and farm life that it examines, *Farm Boys* is worth the read. ▼

does not avoid dealing with the details of his subjects' sexual histories, even when these verge into strange territory. One subject, for example, presents an extended and rather graphic account of bestiality with several kinds of farm animals. Even in light of the subject's explanations for his behavior, the account is somewhat difficult to read. It stands, however, as a good example of the degree to which Fellows presents a complete, truthful picture of growing

Peck's bad boys

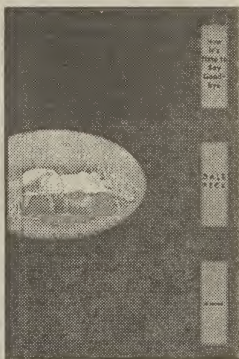
by Robert Julian

Now It's Time To Say Goodbye by Dale Peck; Farrar, Strauss, and Giroux, \$25

Dale Peck's third novel arrives this month like a dark wind blown through the consciousness of an AIDS-era survivor. *Now It's Time To Say Goodbye* takes place in Galatia and Galatea, twins town in rural Kansas, one Caucasian and the other African-American. But Dale Peck's vision of the pastoral life is strictly "double, double, toil and trouble." His novel is filled with gay-bashing, murder, rape, torture, and lynchings. And although the ostensible setting is rural America, the real *mise en scène* is the fetid and festering imagination of Dale Peck.

Any novel that has characters with names like Justin Time, Rosetta Stone, and Weebie Greeving is bound to depart from the ordinary in more ways than one. And Peck opens his 450-page novel with the exodus from Manhattan of wealthy gay novelist Colin Nieman and his resident boy-toy, Justin Time. Worn down by the AIDS epidemic, they abandon New York for the simple life of Kansas. At least in theory, Colin will be able to write his new novel in peace, and Justin will create a life for himself. Both of those things happen, but not as anyone other than the author might imagine.

Galatia and Galatea are straight out of *The Twilight Zone*, parallel universes of discontent on opposite sides of the railroad tracks, where property values are declining and citizens mysteriously turn up dead or missing. Justin and Colin have an introduction to Wade Painter (an artist) who spends most of his time with a black teenage hustler named Divine. But Wade's closest friend is






Weebie Greeving, a former Columbia graduate student and the daughter of the local black minister. When a young white girl is raped and abducted while walking with Justin, Colin begins to examine related local mysteries, including the lynching of an albino African-American which took place a decade earlier.

Plot weaver

Peck is exceptionally good at weaving together the complex elements of plot and personality which constitute the bulk of his novel. There are a dozen characters central to the story and another dozen who are significant, but on the periphery of the narrative. Peck infuses each character with a distinct personality, and an interesting and involved personal history which Peck reveals in great detail as he unravels his mystery. This makes for an extremely complicated plot line and a relatively slow progression for the reader, who must assimilate many facts and try to keep them straight. Each chapter is told from the point of view of one of the characters, and chapter titles carry his or her name. But Peck shifts back and

page 73 ►

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SUMMER READING

Intimate territory

by Linnea Due

A *Four-Sided Bed* by Elizabeth Searle; Graywolf Press

A good novel, besides having a story to tell that grasps something larger, should be both innovative and additively readable — the sort of book you snatch up at odd moments and think about while you're standing in line at the grocery store. Unfortunately, there are very few such books in the world, and I count myself lucky to have discovered two so far this year: Dalia Pagani's *Mercy Road* and Elizabeth Searle's *A Four-Sided Bed*.

Searle teaches in the graduate writing program at Emerson College in Boston; her collection of short stories, *My Body to You*, won the Iowa Short Fiction Prize. Résumés like this usually spell trouble: writers coming out of grad school creative writing programs, especially those who choose to teach, have often sacrificed too much raw talent to the god of mannered unconvention. Not so Searle — she here brings four complicated characters so compellingly to life that it's impossible to look away, even as you feel you're prying into territory too intimate to breach.

In this story of love and desire, Alice discovers that her closer-than-close husband JJ, the only man she has ever been with, has hidden from her an essential part of his history, a love affair he had with a couple together since adolescence, a woman named Bird and a gay man named Kin. Bird and JJ met in the ward of a mental hospital; love for Bird and Kin brought JJ to life for the first time, as if he'd sleepwalked through all that had come before. Now awake, JJ spent two delirious months with Bird and Kin, and then left without notice, believing that to find his own road he had to disattach.

Because Kin is a man, because JJ doesn't want to think of that time when he was so damaged, because he is still drawn to his secret lovers, he has pushed the pair from his mind as best he can. Not so Bird and Kin; both have carried a torch for JJ, the missing link who connected them, who allowed them to make love to each other through him.

'Crazy' past

Wife Alice knows nothing of this besides that when JJ was

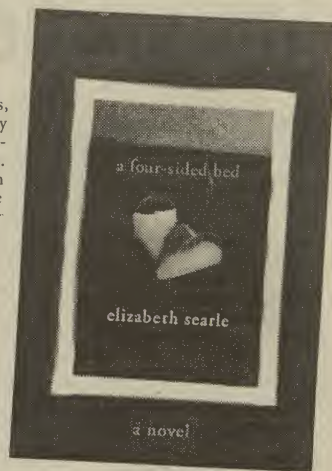
twenty he had been "crazy" and had spent some time in Mass. Mental. All that is long past; JJ is now a grad student at Yale, a computer wiz trying to plan a career that doesn't involve government or military applications. When Kin, suspecting that he is HIV-positive and on the verge of becoming sick, tries to contact JJ after an absence of eight years, the shit hits the fan and starts spraying everybody within range.

Honest Alice intercepts the

Alice uncovers a hateful side to herself she never guessed at, one she realizes only serves to drive JJ further away.

Bird and a terribly sick Kin land in Mexico after a months-long worldwide journey on free miles earned with Kin's airline job, a story told via Bird's painful let's-talk-turkey letters. JJ and a newly pregnant Alice summer at Alice's parents' home in Arizona, Alice relieved that she's finally escaped the persistent pair, JJ know-

story — other friends, jobs, bizarre and funny coincidences that in fiction are unbelievable. Searle edits by focusing in finer and finer, as if she takes a microscope to her characters. The result could be claustrophobic but is not, because by focusing so narrowly, Searle's scope broadens to the hard stuff: the demands of love, loyalty, and desire. In *A Four-Sided Bed*, Searle does nothing less than map out the multiplicity of paradoxes we all must navigate. ▼



Searle makes us understand that sometimes the most honest people do dishonest things; when feelings go fugitive, we can find ourselves doing the unimaginable.

couple's phone calls and letters and shows up at a meeting they try to arrange with JJ at a New Haven bar; truer-than-blue JJ redirects his mail to his office and assures Alice that whatever happened is in the past and will stay that way. Searle makes us understand that sometimes the most honest people do dishonest things; when feelings go fugitive, any of us can find ourselves doing the unimaginable. During this period, JJ must confront his own truth — that his motives go beyond helping an old lover — and

ing they are now within a five-hour drive. What makes the subterfuge work is the goodness of the characters, how each is doing his or her best to honor, cherish, and protect each other. That Alice foe is attracted to the boyish Bird helps her to understand JJ's ambivalences: "So many lives lived at once, so many lives one person could live. So many ways people could fit with each other, live in each other, live off each other."

Writing fiction is a tricky business of eking art from chaos. So much must be edited out to tell a

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Modern Times Bookstore celebrates Gay Pride Month

Tuesday, June 9th, 7:30 PM
JEWELLE GOMEZ: *DON'T EXPLAIN*

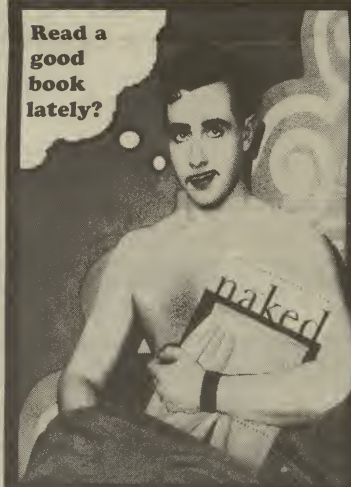
Wednesday, June 10th, 7:30 PM
ELLEN LEWIN:
RECOGNIZING OURSELVES

Thursday, June 11th, 7:30 PM
BRIAN BOULDREY:
BEST AMERICAN GAY FICTION 2
Guest readers will be KEVIN KILLIAN, STEPHEN BEACHY,
BRIAN BOULDREY, ROBERT GLUCK, and JUSTIN CHIN

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Ode to joy

by John F. Karr

Packing Up For Paradise, Selected Poems 1946-1996 by James Broughton, edited by Jim Cory; Black Sparrow Press, \$16

A great joy rains down upon the land, because there is a new book of poems by James Broughton, and a great woe rises up amongst the people because it is most likely his last. Yet I'm sure that Broughton, at 85 still a blessed messenger of joy, would want us only to rejoice in the juicy survey of his career provided by *Packing Up For Paradise*.

Those readers already initiated in the wonders of Mr. Broughton will have no hesitation in acquiring this collection, even though it duplicates some material from the 1990 volume *Special Deliveries, New and Selected Poems*. Those unfamiliar with this pithy preacher for the carnal should seize this new volume immediately. An iconoclast who thumbed his nose at convention and therefore suf-

PACKING UP FOR PARADISE

SELECTED POEMS 1946-1996



JAMES BROUGHTON

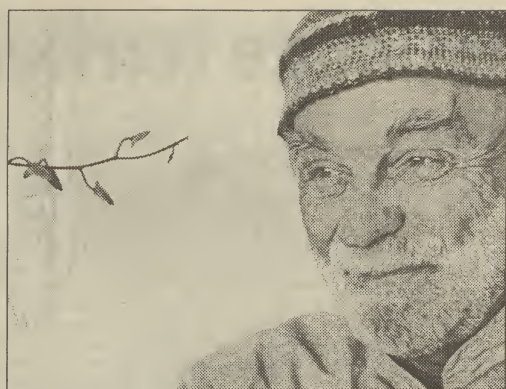
fered the neglect of the academic world, Broughton has been under-antologized and downright ignored by those who seek to anoint the great gay and lesbian authors of our day. What the reader new to Broughton will find, upon the briefest of acquaintances, is a singer of wonder and wit, an imp whose lyric voice and songs of horniness, sex, and spirituality mark him as the gay poet laureate — as Jim Cory writes in the perceptive, brief essay which opens the present collection, "[Broughton] is the heartiest and most consistent celebrant since Whitman."

Angel-sent boy

It is a destiny to which Broughton was born. At the age of three, he told us in his memoir, *Coming Unbuttoned*, he

experienced the major epiphany of his life. Looking out his window that autumn night, he saw a naked boy step out of a whirling ball of light. Broughton knew the boy was angel-sent, come to anoint Broughton a caretaker of the soul, through the medium of poetry. Broughton would worship wonder and celebrate life; his chief tool, proffered by the vision as a gift, would be merriment: Broughton was to be a spokesman for The Big Joy.

More particularly, Broughton found out, he was to be a spokesman for a joy that was uniquely gay. Oh, for a time he was married; he has children, now grown. But along the line, and celebrated in the series of famous poems titled *Estasies*, he met his soulmate, the artist Joel Singer — and what serendipity there is in



Poet and celebrant James Broughton.

his last name! In the songs of wonder that celebrate their union, and by extension the brotherhood of all gay men, Broughton wrote his own *Calamus*. If his urgings to the carnal like "Nipples and

Cocks" and "Song of the Phallus" are playfully impish, Broughton's poems of the deep love and wonder of male-to-male union are splendid paucans. And finally, in

page 75 ▶

MISCELLANY

The Agatha and the ecstasy

by Deborah Peifer

For those of us mystery lovers who continue to mourn Agatha Christie's death, Putnam offers *The Harlequin Tea Set and Other Stories* (\$21.95), a selection of Christie's previously uncollected short fiction. It's clear that the reason the stories were not previously chosen for anthology has to do with their not fitting into any neat category, rather than any lack of quality. These stories are darker than much of her other short fiction, and many offer solutions that belong more to the supernatural than to scientific or intuitive detecting. They are also extremely satisfying and very creepy, a real pleasure to read. *The Harlequin Tea Set* is a wonderful find for any fan of Dame Agatha.

Amanda Cross, creator of the Kate Fansler mysteries, also has a collection of short mysteries (*The Collected Stories*; Ballantine, \$19.95) that are worthy of her longer works. The stories are appropriately complex, often funny, always feminist in sensibility — a real pleasure to read.

Violet and Vita

I finally got around to reading last year's *Mrs. Keppel and Her Daughter* by Diana Souhami (St. Martin's, \$25.95). What a remarkable pair of stories. Mrs. Keppel, of course, was the notorious mistress of King Edward VII; her daughter, Violet Trefusis, was equally notorious, to considerably less financial and personal gain, as the paramour of Vita Sackville-West. Souhami does a fine job of capturing the lavish scale of life among the royals, and their hangers-on. "For a week's stay [at a friend's country estate], [the King] would take with him forty suits and uniforms, twenty pairs of boots and shoes, a valet, a sergeant footman, a brusher, two equerries with their valets, two telephonists, two chauffeurs, two loaders for his guns and an Arab boy to make coffee the way he liked it." More than a mere history of the time, however, *Mrs. Keppel* offers an in-depth exploration of the ways in which a heterosexual affair with the King provided status, wealth and fame, while an open lesbian affair meant social opprobrium and personal disaster. If you've wondered what happened to Violet after she was dumped by Vita, this is the book for you.

Independent bookstores

A Different Light Bookstore offers a gaggle of useful and entertaining events this month. If you're considering becoming a June Bride, or domestic partner, at least, drop by on June 4 at 7:30 p.m. to hear Frederick Hertz discuss *Legal Affairs: Essential Advice for Same-Sex Couples*, a unique blend of wise counsel, practical advice, and social history. June 7 at 1 p.m. is SmartBMmb-D, the monthly open mic(helle) for women. Come to listen or bring explosive work of your own to read. Later on, at 3:30, Red Jordan Arobateau presents the further adventures of the Outlaws, a gang of dykes on bikes unlike any you've ever encountered. When a mysterious biker walks into Oils, looking for love, driven by lust, and hoping to leave a sorry past behind, trouble follows. On June 10 at 7:30 p.m., Misha Cohen, a Chinese medicine practitioner and author of the *HIV Wellness Source Book*, offers practical guidance for acupuncturists, Western physicians, patients, and friends of patients dealing HIV infection. Call 431-0891 for details on other upcoming events.

Book Passage in Corte Madera takes its title as a full-service, independent bookstore seriously, offering writing classes by such luminaries as Katherine Forrest (Kate DeLafield mysteries) and Molly Giles (*Creek Walk and Other Stories*), and readings by a range of writers from Dorothy Allison to David Halberstam. In addition to one-day workshops, B.P.U. hosts four-day conferences for writers of mysteries, fiction, and children's books. Check out the website www.bookpassage.com, or call 927-0960 for information and detailed schedules. ▼



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RELEASED

RELEASE THE POWER

FORTOVASE therapy releases more HIV-fighting medicine into the blood compared to INVIRASE® (saquinavir mesylate), the original form of saquinavir, at recommended dosages.

REDUCE HIV

After 4 months of treatment, HIV was reduced to undetectable levels* in most patients taking FORTOVASE plus two nucleoside analogues as their first HIV therapy, compared to less than half of patients taking INVIRASE plus two nucleoside analogues.

KEEP SIDE EFFECTS LOW

FORTOVASE, like INVIRASE, is generally well tolerated. The majority of side effects are mild. In patients taking FORTOVASE with two nucleoside analogues, the most common side effects were nausea, diarrhea, upset stomach and heartburn.

ACHIEVE MAXIMUM BENEFIT

The recommended dosage of FORTOVASE is convenient and easy to remember—six capsules, taken three times a day with meals or within 2 hours after a meal. It is important to take your medication every day, as prescribed.

TALK TO YOUR DOCTOR

There are some medications that should not be taken with FORTOVASE. Be sure to tell your doctor all of the medicines that you are now taking or plan to take. There have also been reports of worsening liver problems in patients taking FORTOVASE. Additional side effects reported with protease inhibitors include increased blood sugar levels, new onset or worsening of diabetes and increased bleeding in some patients with hemophilia. Talk to your doctor for more information regarding side effects that may accompany this medication.

NOTE: FORTOVASE and INVIRASE are not the same and should not be used interchangeably.

*Below the amount that could be found using a standard test.

FORTOVASE™
(saquinavir) Soft Gel Capsules
RELEASE THE POWER

Please see product information about FORTOVASE on the adjacent pages.

FORTOBASE™ (saquinavir) Soft Gelatin Capsules

INDICATIONS AND USAGE: FORTOBASE is indicated for use in combination with other antiretroviral agents for the treatment of HIV infection. This indication is based on a study that showed a reduction in both mortality and AIDS-defining clinical events for patients who received INVIRASE® (saquinavir mesylate) in combination with HIVD® (zalcitabine) compared to patients who received either HIVD or INVIRASE alone. This indication is also based on studies that showed increased saquinavir concentrations and improved antiviral activity for FORTOBASE 1200 mg tid compared to INVIRASE 600 mg tid.

CONTRAINDICATIONS: FORTOBASE is contraindicated in patients with clinically significant hypersensitivity to saquinavir or to any of the components contained in the capsule.

FORTOBASE should not be administered concurrently with terfenadine, cisapride, astemizole, triazolam, midazolam or ergot derivatives, because competition for CYP3A by saquinavir could result in inhibition of the metabolism of these drugs and create the potential for serious and/or life-threatening reactions such as cardiac arrhythmias or prolonged sedation (see PRECAUTIONS: Drug Interactions).

WARNINGS: New onset diabetes mellitus, exacerbation of pre-existing diabetes mellitus and hyperglycemia have been reported during postmarketing surveillance in HIV-infected patients receiving protease-inhibitor therapy. Some patients required either initiation or dose adjustments of insulin or oral hypoglycemic agents for the treatment of these events. In some cases diabetic ketoacidosis has occurred. In those patients who discontinued protease-inhibitor therapy, hyperglycemia persisted in some cases. Because these events have been reported voluntarily during clinical practice, estimates of frequency cannot be made and a causal relationship between protease-inhibitor therapy and these events has not been established.

PRECAUTIONS: General: If a serious or severe toxicity occurs during treatment with FORTOBASE, FORTOBASE should be interrupted until the etiology of the event is identified or the toxicity resolves. At that time, resumption of treatment with full-dose FORTOBASE may be considered.

Preliminary results from a pharmacokinetic substudy of NV15182 from patients sampled between weeks 61 to 69 of treatment showed that the mean saquinavir AUC was lower than the week 3 mean AUC from study NV15107. However, the mean AUC of saquinavir at week 61 to 69 remained higher than the mean AUC of INVIRASE in study NV15107 (see complete product information, CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: Pharmacokinetics). The clinical significance of this finding is unknown.

Hepatic Insufficiency: Saquinavir is principally metabolized by the liver. Therefore, caution should be exercised when administering FORTOBASE to patients with hepatic insufficiency since patients with baseline liver function tests ≥ 5 times the upper limit of normal were not included in clinical studies. Although a causal relationship has not been established, there have been reports of exacerbation of chronic liver dysfunction, including portal hypertension, in patients with underlying hepatitis B or C, cirrhosis or other underlying liver abnormalities.

Hemophilia: There have been reports of spontaneous bleeding in patients with hemophilia A and B treated with protease inhibitors. In some patients additional factor VIII was required. In the majority of reported cases treatment with protease inhibitors was continued or restarted. A causal relationship between protease-inhibitor therapy and these episodes has not been established.

Resistance/Cross-resistance: Varying degrees of cross-resistance among protease inhibitors have been observed. Continued administration of saquinavir therapy following loss of viral suppression may increase the likelihood of cross-resistance to other protease inhibitors (see complete product information, MICROBIOLOGY).

Information for Patients: Patients should be informed: (1) Any change from INVIRASE to FORTOBASE should be made only under the supervision of a physician; (2) FORTOBASE is not a cure for HIV infection and they may continue to contract illnesses associated with advanced HIV infection, including opportunistic infections; (3) FORTOBASE therapy has not been shown to reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination; (4) FORTOBASE may interact with some drugs; therefore, patients should be advised to report to their physician the use of any other prescription or nonprescription medication; (5) FORTOBASE should be taken within 2 hours after a full meal (see complete product information, CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: Pharmacokinetics); (6) Of the importance of taking their medication every day, as prescribed, to achieve maximum benefit. Patients should not alter the dose or discontinue therapy without consulting their physician. If a dose is missed, patients should take the next dose as soon as possible. However, the patient should not double the next dose; (7) The long-term effects of FORTOBASE are unknown at this time; (8) Refrigerated (36° to 46°F; 2° to 8°C) capsules of FORTOBASE remain stable until the expiration date printed on the label. Once brought to room temperature [at or below 77°F (25°C)], capsules should be used within 3 months.

Laboratory Tests: Clinical chemistry tests should be performed prior to initiating FORTOBASE therapy and at appropriate intervals thereafter. Elevated nontasting triglyceride levels have been observed in patients in saquinavir trials. Triglyceride levels should be periodically monitored during therapy. For comprehensive information concerning laboratory test alterations associated with use of other antiretroviral therapies, physicians should refer to the complete product information for these drugs.

Drug Interactions: Several drug interaction studies have been completed with both INVIRASE and FORTOBASE. Observations from drug interaction studies with INVIRASE may not be predictive for FORTOBASE.

ANTIBIOTICS: Clarithromycin: Coadministration of clarithromycin with FORTOBASE resulted in a 177% increase in saquinavir plasma AUC, a 45% increase in clarithromycin AUC and a 24% decrease in clarithromycin 14-OH metabolite AUC.

ANTIHISTAMINES: Terfenadine: Coadministration of terfenadine with FORTOBASE resulted in increased terfenadine plasma levels; therefore, FORTOBASE should not be administered concurrently with terfenadine because of the potential for serious and/or life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias. **Astemizole:** Because a similar interaction to that seen with terfenadine is likely from the coadministration of FORTOBASE and astemizole, FORTOBASE should not be administered concurrently with astemizole.

HIV PROTEASE INHIBITORS: Indinavir: Coadministration of indinavir with FORTOBASE (1200-mg single dose) resulted in a 384% increase in saquinavir plasma AUC. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination. **Nelfinavir:** Coadministration of nelfinavir with FORTOBASE resulted in an 18% increase in nelfinavir plasma AUC and a 392% increase in saquinavir plasma AUC. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination. **Ritonavir:** Following approximately 4 weeks of a combination regimen of saquinavir (400 mg or 600 mg bid) and ritonavir (400 mg or 600 mg bid) in HIV-infected patients, saquinavir AUC values were at least 17-fold greater than historical AUC values from patients who received saquinavir 600 mg tid without ritonavir. When used in combination therapy for up to 24 weeks, doses greater than 400 mg bid of either ritonavir or saquinavir were associated with an increase in adverse events. Plasma exposures achieved with INVIRASE (400 mg bid) and ritonavir (400 mg bid) are similar to those achieved with FORTOBASE (400 mg bid) and ritonavir (400 mg bid).

HIV REVERSE-TRANSCRIPTASE INHIBITORS: No interaction with saquinavir is expected.

HIV NON-NUCLEOSIDE REVERSE-TRANSCRIPTASE INHIBITORS: Delavirdine: Coadministration of delavirdine with INVIRASE resulted in a 5-fold increase in saquinavir plasma AUC. Currently there are limited safety and no efficacy data available from the use of this combination. In a small, preliminary study, hepatocellular enzyme elevations occurred in 13% of subjects during the first several weeks of the delavirdine and saquinavir combination (6% Grade 3 or 4). Hepatocellular changes should be monitored frequently if this combination is prescribed. **Nevirapine:** Coadministration of nevirapine with INVIRASE resulted in a 24% decrease in saquinavir plasma AUC. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

ANTIFUNGAL AGENTS: Ketoconazole: Coadministration of ketoconazole with INVIRASE resulted in a 130% increase in saquinavir plasma AUC.

FORTOBASE™ (saquinavir)

ANTIMYCOBACTERIAL AGENTS: Rifabutin: Coadministration of rifabutin with INVIRASE (saquinavir mesylate) resulted in a 43% decrease in saquinavir plasma AUC. Physicians should consider using an alternative to rifabutin when a patient is taking FORTOBASE. **Rifampin:** Coadministration of rifampin with INVIRASE resulted in an 84% decrease in saquinavir plasma AUC. Physicians should consider using an alternative to rifampin when a patient is taking FORTOBASE.

H₂ ANTAGONISTS: Ranitidine: Little or no change in the pharmacokinetics of INVIRASE was observed when coadministered with ranitidine. No significant interaction would be expected between FORTOBASE and ranitidine.

GI MOTILITY AGENTS: Cisapride: Cisapride should not be administered concurrently with FORTOBASE because of the potential for serious and/or life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias.

Other potential drug interactions that may decrease saquinavir plasma concentrations include: anticonvulsants — carbamazepine, phenobarbital, phenytoin; corticosteroids — dexamethasone.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis and Impairment of Fertility: Carcinogenesis: Carcinogenicity studies in rats and mice have not yet been completed.

Mutagenesis: Mutagenicity and genotoxicity studies, with and without metabolic activation where appropriate, have shown that saquinavir has no mutagenic activity in vitro in either bacterial (Ames test) or mammalian cells (Chinese hamster lung V79/HPRT test). Saquinavir does not induce chromosomal damage in vivo in the mouse micronucleus assay or in vitro in human peripheral blood lymphocytes and does not induce primary DNA damage in vitro in the unscheduled DNA synthesis test.

Impairment of Fertility: Fertility and reproductive performance were not affected in rats at plasma exposures (AUC values) approximately 50% of those achieved in humans at the recommended dose.

Pregnancy: Teratogenic Effects: Category B. Reproduction studies conducted with saquinavir in rats have shown no embryotoxicity or teratogenicity at plasma exposures (AUC values) approximately 50% of those achieved in humans at the recommended dose or in rabbits at plasma exposures approximately 40% of those achieved at the recommended clinical dose of FORTOBASE. Distribution studies in these species showed that placental transfer of saquinavir is low (less than 5% of maternal plasma concentrations).

Studies in rats indicated that exposure to saquinavir from late pregnancy through lactation at plasma concentrations (AUC values) approximately 50% of those achieved in humans at the recommended dose of FORTOBASE had no effect on the survival, growth and development of offspring to weaning. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, FORTOBASE should only be used during pregnancy after taking into account the importance of the drug to the mother. Presently, there are no reports of women receiving FORTOBASE in clinical trials who became pregnant.

Nursing Mothers: The US Public Health Service Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises HIV-infected women not to breastfeed to avoid postnatal transmission of HIV to a child who may not be infected. It is not known whether saquinavir is excreted in human milk.

Pediatric Use: Safety and effectiveness of FORTOBASE in HIV-infected pediatric patients younger than 16 years of age have not been established.

Geriatric Use: Safety and effectiveness of FORTOBASE in HIV-infected geriatric patients older than 65 years of age have not been established.

ADVERSE REACTIONS (see PRECAUTIONS): The safety of FORTOBASE was studied in more than 500 patients who received the drug either alone or in combination with other antiretroviral agents. The majority of treatment-related adverse events were of mild intensity. The most frequently reported treatment-emergent adverse events among patients receiving FORTOBASE in combination with other antiretroviral agents were diarrhea, nausea, abdominal discomfort and dyspepsia.

Clinical adverse events of at least moderate intensity which occurred in $\geq 2\%$ of patients in studies NV15182 and NV15355 are summarized in Table A. The median duration of treatment in studies NV15182 and NV15355 were 52 and 18 weeks, respectively. In NV15182, more than 300 patients were on treatment for approximately 1 year.

Table A. Percent of Patients With Treatment-Emergent Adverse Events* of at Least Moderate Intensity, Occurring in $\geq 2\%$ of Patients

ADVERSE EVENT	NV15182 (48 weeks)	NV15355 (16 weeks)	
	FORTOBASE + TOC† N=442	INVIRASE + 2 RTIs‡ N=81	FORTOBASE + 2 RTIs‡ N=90
Diarrhea	19.9	12.3	15.6
Nausea	10.6	13.6	17.8
Abdominal Discomfort	8.6	4.9	13.3
Dyspepsia	8.4	—	8.9
Flatulence	5.7	7.4	12.2
Vomiting	2.9	1.2	4.4
Abdominal Pain	2.3	1.2	7.8
Constipation	—	—	3.3
Fatigue	4.8	6.2	6.7
Headaches	5.0	4.9	8.9
Depression	2.7	—	—
Insomnia	—	1.2	5.6
Anxiety	—	2.5	2.2
Libido Disorder	—	—	2.2
Taste Alteration	—	1.2	4.4
Pain	—	3.7	3.3
Eczema	—	2.5	—
Rash	—	2.5	—
Verruca	—	—	2.2

* Includes adverse events at least possibly related to study drug or of unknown intensity and/or relationship to treatment (corresponding to ACTG Grade 3 and 4). † Antiretroviral Treatment of Choice. ‡ Reverse-Transcriptase Inhibitor.

FORTOBASE did not appear to alter the pattern, frequency or severity of known major toxicities associated with the use of nucleoside analogues. Physicians should refer to the complete product information for other antiretroviral agents as appropriate for drug-associated adverse reactions to these other agents.

Rare occurrences of the following serious adverse experiences have been reported during clinical trials of FORTOBASE and/or INVIRASE and were considered at least possibly related to use of study drugs: confusion, ataxia and weakness; seizures; headache; acute myeloblastic leukemia; hemolytic anemia; thrombocytopenia; thrombocytopenia and intracranial hemorrhage leading to death; attempted suicide; Stevens-Johnson syndrome; bullous skin eruption and polyarthritides; severe cutaneous reaction associated with increased liver function tests; isolated elevation of transaminases; exacerbation of chronic liver disease with Grade 4 elevated liver function tests, jaundice, ascites, and right and left upper quadrant abdominal pain; pancreatitis leading to death; intestinal obstruction; portal hypertension; thrombophlebitis; peripheral vasoconstriction; drug fever; nephrolithiasis; and acute renal insufficiency.

Table B summarizes the percentage of patients with marked laboratory abnormalities in study NV15182 and NV15355 (median duration of treatment was 52 and 18 weeks, respectively). In study NV15182, by 48 weeks $<1\%$ of patients discontinued treatment due to laboratory abnormalities.

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FORTOVASE™ (saquinavir)

Table B. Percent of Patients With Marked Laboratory Abnormalities*

Biochemistry/Hematology	Limit	NV15182 (48 weeks)	NV15355 (16 weeks) Naïve Patients	
		FORTOVASE + TOC† N=442	INVIRASE + 2 RTIs‡ N=81	FORTOVASE + 2 RTIs‡ N=80
Alk Phos	>5 x ULN§	0.5	0.0	0.0
Calcium (high)	>12.5 mg/dL	0.2	0.0	0.0
Creatine Kinase	>4 x ULN§	7.9	0.0	4.8
Gamma GT	>5 x ULN§	5.7	2.6	7.1
Glucose (low)	<40 mg/dL	6.4	2.5	3.5
Glucose (high)	>250 mg/dL	1.4	1.3	1.2
Phosphate	<15 mg/dL	0.5	0.0	0.0
Potassium (high)	>6.5 mEq/L	2.7	0.0	1.2
Serum Amylase	>2 x ULN§	1.9	Not Done	Not Done
SGOT (AST)	>5 x ULN§	4.1	0.0	1.2
SGPT (ALT)	>5 x ULN§	5.7	1.3	2.3
Sodium (high)	>157 mEq/L	0.7	0.0	0.0
Total Bilirubin	>2.5 x ULN§	1.6	0.0	0.0
Hemoglobin	<7.0 gm/dL	0.7	0.0	1.2
ANC	<750 mm³	2.9	2.9	1.2
Platelets	<50,000 mm³	0.9	2.5	0.0

*ACTG Grade 3 or above. †Antiretroviral Treatment of Choice. ‡Reverse-Transcriptase Inhibitor. §ULN = Upper limit of normal range.

Additional marked lab abnormalities have been observed with INVIRASE (saquinavir mesylate). These include: calcium (low), phosphate (low), potassium (low), sodium (low).

Monotherapy and Combination Studies: Other clinical adverse experiences of any intensity, at least remotely related to FORTOVASE and INVIRASE, including those in <2% of patients, are listed below by body system.

Autonomic Nervous System: Mouth dry, night sweats, sweating increased

Body as a Whole: Allergic reaction, anorexia, appetite decreased, appetite disturbances, asthenia, chest pain, edema, fever, intoxication, malaise, olfactory disorder, pain body, pain pelvic, retrosternal pain, shivering, trauma, wasting syndrome, weakness generalized, weight decrease

Cardiovascular/Cerebrovascular: Cyanosis, heart murmur, heart rate disorder, heart valve disorder, hypertension, hypotension, stroke, syncope, vein distended

Central and Peripheral Nervous System: Ataxia, cerebral hemorrhage, confusion, convulsions, dizziness, dysarthria, dysaesthesia, hyperreflexia, hyporeflexia, light-headed feeling, myelopathy, radiculoneuropathy, neuropathy, numbness extremities, numbness face, paresthesia, peripheral neuropathy, poliomyelitis, prickly sensation, progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy, spasms, tremor, unconsciousness

Dermatological: Acne, alopecia, chazaloz, dermatitis, dermatitis seborrheic, erythema, folliculitis, furunculosis, hair changes, hot flushes, nail disorder, papillomatosis, papular rash, photosensitivity reaction, pigment changes skin, parasites external, pruritus, psoriasis, rash maculopapular, rash pruritic, red face, skin disorder, skin nodule, skin syndrome, skin ulceration, urticaria, verruca, xeroderma

Endocrine/Metabolic: Dehydration, diabetes mellitus, hyperglycemia, hypoglycemia, hypothyroidism, thirst, triglyceride increase, weight increase

Gastrointestinal: Abdominal distention, bowel movements frequent, buccal mucosa ulceration, canker sores oral, cheilitis, colic abdominal, dysphagia, esophageal ulceration, esophagitis, enucation, fecal incontinence, feces bloodstained, feces discolored, gastralgia, gastritis, gastroesophageal reflux, gastrointestinal inflammation, gingivitis, glossitis, hemorrhage rectum, hemorrhoids, infectious diarrhea, melena, painful defecation, parotid disorder, pruritus ani, pyrosis, salivary glands disorder, stomach upset, stomatitis, taste unpleasant, toothache, tooth disorder, ulcer gastrointestinal

Hematologic: Anemia, neutropenia, pancytopenia, splenomegaly

Liver and Biliary: Cholangitis sclerosing, cholelithiasis, hepatitis, hepatomegaly, hepatosplenomegaly, jaundice, liver enzyme disorder, pancreatitis

Musculoskeletal: Arthralgia, arthritis, back pain, cramps leg, cramps muscle, lumbago, musculoskeletal disorders, myalgia, myopathy, pain facial, pain jaw, pain leg, pain musculoskeletal, stiffness, tissue changes

Neoplasia: Kaposi's sarcoma, tumor

Platelet, Bleeding, Clotting: Bleeding dermal, hemorrhage, microhemorrhages, thrombocytopenia

Psychiatric: Agitation, amnesia, anxiety attack, behavior disturbances, dreaming excessive, euphoria, hallucination, intellectual ability reduced, irritability, lethargy, overdose effect, psychic disorder, psychosis, somnolence, speech disorder

Reproductive System: Epididymitis, erectile impotence, impotence, menstrual disorder, menstrual irregularity, penis disorder, prostate enlarged, vaginal discharge

Resistance Mechanism: Abscess, angina tonsillaris, candidiasis, cellulitis, herpes simplex, herpes zoster, infection bacterial, infection mycotic, infection staphylococcal, infestation parasitic, influenza, lymphadenopathy, molluscum contagiosum, moniliasis

Respiratory: Asthma bronchial, bronchitis, cough, dyspnea, epistaxis, hemoptysis, laryngitis, pharyngitis, pneumonia, pulmonary disease, respiratory disorder, rhinitis, rhinitis allergic atopic, sinusitis, upper respiratory tract infection

Special Senses: Blepharitis, conjunctivitis, cytomegalovirus retinitis, dry eye syndrome, earache, ear pressure, eye irritation, hearing decreased, otitis, taste unpleasant, tinnitus, visual disturbance, xerophthalmia

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FOR0080

Kid stuff

by Deborah Peifer

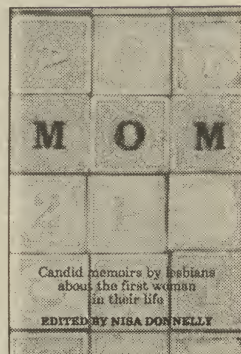
Mom: Candid Memoirs by Lesbians about the First Woman in their Life, edited by Nisa Donnelly; Alyson, \$12.95

Lucy Goes to the Country by Joseph Kennedy; illustrations by John Canemaker; Alyson Wonderland, \$15.95

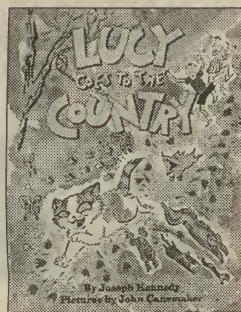
My relationship with my mother was seriously problematic, and not only because she threw me out of the family when I came out to her. In the years since her death, though, I've been able to remember and enjoy the wonderful things that we did together. She and I took a bus from the suburbs to Chicago (she was terrified of driving on freeways or in cities, so the bus was the only option) to see a play or concert. My mother had been a musical-comedy performer before her marriage, and on the trip home we'd talk about what we'd seen, and how we'd change it. My mother had a keen director's eye, and she taught me to think that way, too. "Why do you think no one laughed when that short man fell? What would have made it funny?" Sometimes we'd try out different line-readings to see how the meaning changed with changes in emphasis. The trips with her were the golden moments of my childhood, and I was glad to be reminded of them thanks to Nisa Donnelly's new anthology, *Mom*.

Mom features writing by lesbians of renown who bring their considerable writerly skills to that first and most important relationship. Katherine Forrest's adoptive parents died when she was still very young. "Having been surrendered to these parents for adoption when I was an infant, I had, in effect, lost two sets of parents by age 16, which, as someone has mordantly pointed out, makes me very careless indeed." Thanks to a remarkable friend, Forrest was able to have a nurturing, motherly relationship, one that she celebrates in the very moving "Jeanie."

Lucy Jane Bledsoe's "Searching for the Mythic Mother Mentor" is a touching look at revising memories to reflect a wished-for past, a past in which "any skeletons in my family's closet [are] locked in for life." "Poa Poa Is Living Breathing Light," Kitty Tsui's memoir of her grandmother, will bring smiles and tears and a sense of wonder. *Mom* is not all serious reflection, though. Chocolate Waters lets us know, with comic finesse, that "There's No Place Like Home



(Thank God)" when she is forced to visit her parents: "My mother and father are a charming couple who have been together since the days of Christ and have hated each other the entire time." *Mom* is a poignant and powerful look at the woman who made us possible, one that may help you to remember or relive the magical Mom moments of your own life.



Fireman included

Thinking about Mom leads to thinking about kids and their books. The latest picture book from Alyson Wonderland is delightful. Lucy is a cat who lives with two Big Guys in a city apartment. A trip to the country leads to a series of adventures and near-disasters, with a happy ending that includes a hunky fireman. Combining engaging illustrations and a witty text, *Lucy Goes to the Country* is a subversive book that will surely give Jesse Helms indigestion, just as soon as someone reads it to him. Lucy's Big Guys are clearly lovers, and their country picnic includes families of every variety. I read-tested *Lucy* on a five-year-old friend of mine, and he loved it, especially the illustrations which seemed to move on the page, and led to various side trips for us as we considered just what else Lucy might do. ▼

Dale Peck

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forth from first to third person with no discernible reason or pattern. His sentence structures are complex enough that they could put an Evelyn Wood graduate in the hospital; it is simply not possible to scan this book and come away with anything meaningful.

When Peck has finally played his last card, the reader will not necessarily be satisfied. In a story filled with racism, provincialism, discrimination, selfishness, and death, many readers will be looking for some redemptive arch to the story, some reason for hope and optimism. This will not be found in *Now It's Time to Say*

Goodbye. Weebie Greeving finally settles down with a boring but adoring black man for a life of mental enmity, and hers is the happiest ending of the book. The final chapter is a fantasy told by the young girl who was abducted, and her allegory on the human condition involves souls, like pebbles, coming into the mouths of the mothers and asking to be born. But the world they will be born into promises nothing that improves upon the AIDS-ravaged existence Colin and Justin hoped to escape. ▼

Dale Peck reads from *Now It's Time to Say Goodbye* on Monday, June 8 at 7:30 p.m. at A Different Light, 489 Castro St.

An irregular Joe

by Patrick D. Hoctel

Head to Toe: A Novel and Up Against It: A Screenplay for the Beatles by Joe Orton; Da Capo Press, \$14.95

In the late 1980s, English gay playwright Joe Orton's work (*Entertaining Mr. Sloane*, *Loot*, *What the Butler Saw*) and reputation enjoyed a spectacular revival. John Lahr's biography of Orton, *Prick Up Your Ears*, was reissued to coincide with the publication of the Orton diaries (edited by Lahr) and the Stephen Frears film of the same name that starred Gary Oldman as the sexy, doomed writer.

Now Da Capo Press has reissued Orton's novel *Head to Toe* (written in 1959 when he was 26 and first published in 1971) along with his never-produced Beatles screenplay, *Up Against It* (first published in 1979). The two are a fitting combination, as Orton appropriated large chunks of the novel to form his rather slight, rather slick 70-page screen treat-

ment.

Head to Toe, with its echoes of *Alice in Wonderland*, *Animal Farm*, a *Gulliver's Travels* in reverse and, especially, *Candide*, reads like the work of a young, gifted writer still struggling to find his own special voice. Like all Orton's oeuvre, it is inherently subversive, gleefully skewering politics and politicians, the church and the military, aristocrats (most notably the Queen) and high society, intellectuals and academics, etc. right and left.

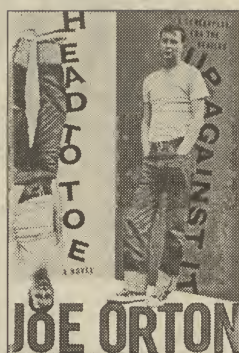
While chronicling the adventures of its erstwhile hero, Gombold, a human "parasite" living off and traveling about a giant host, the novel also features a 100-foot penis ("It stood up from the ground, bulging and bristling, its walls veined by blue streaks. So vast, so steep, so mighty that it seemed a new world rising out of the old; a world of its own; beautiful and menacing. A vast erection of the earth.") Not surprisingly, much scatological humor is in evidence, particularly in the section detailing Gombold's imprisonment in a cubicle in a de-

cidedly rank privy, a *pissoir* that even the notorious Joe Orton would probably have avoided.

Unfortunately, despite the often delightfully bitchy dialogue and inspired wordplay, Orton doesn't bring this tale — or fable — off with quite the same élan as his more successful plays. There is a lumbering, sometimes labored quality about the prose even when the situations described are wonderfully screwy, and the extremely episodic *Head to Toe* suffers from the lack of a driving engine — the pace flags. It's not difficult

to see why Orton shelved this effort only to cannibalize it later for the Fab Four, a venture he saw strictly in commercial terms, though he more than appreciated its publicity potential.

Even so, *Head to Toe* and *Up Against It* are welcome additions to the Orton canon. They provide a valuable insight into the playwright's earlier years as a younger, perhaps more idealistic writer, and his later ones as a shrewder, tougher, more astute judge of what the public wanted and expected from him. ▼



Full of wonder

by Deborah Peifer

Don't Explain by Jewelle Gomez; Firebrand, \$10.95

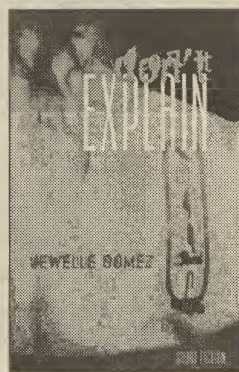
Jewelle Gomez (*The Gilda Stories*) is a real storyteller, maybe one of our best. She can take a moment and weave it into something extraordinary. In her latest collection of short fiction, Gomez travels the well-worn paths of erotica and vampires and coming out in ways that make those plots new and important and hugely entertaining.

"Don't Explain" comes from the Billie Holiday standard, and the story is an evocative telling of a chance meeting with Lady Day and the way her music enables a lonely woman to break out of her solitude, to find others of her kind. It is also, in 11 pages, a picture of what it meant to be black and a lesbian in 1959. Gomez uses subtle indicators to remind her readers of the racism that lurks below the surface or rages above. In the very fine "Grace A.," for example, there is a reference to the fire station next door and "the one black fireman stationed there." This is the story of a great-grandmother and her great-grandchild and their efforts to find an accommodation when they are forced to live together. Gomez uses the simple and intimate act of combing and braiding hair as a metaphor for the intersection of

generations. The little girl's fear of her new situation and the firmness of her great-grandmother's hand on the brush create a wealth of emotions and tell us so much about both of them.

"White Flower" is an erotic tale of a purely sexual relationship that fulfills the needs of the two women involved, even as it frustrates their friends, those who want permanence for all, whether or not the parties themselves wish for that solidity. "Water with the Wine" is a lovely intergenerational love story with a dash of good friendship that gives the tale added spice.

Gomez includes a science-fiction novella, "Lynx and Strand," that is as creepy and terrifying a look at the future as I have read in a long time. She combines eros and the forbidden art of the tattoo to create an image of art as revolutionary act that is utterly compelling. And yes, there is a fine new



Gilda story for all of us who have been aching for a continuation of those remarkable tales.

Don't Explain fills the mind with wonder while it enriches the soul and enlivens the spirit. It is a collection to be treasured and enjoyed. "Art is magic," Lynx and Strand insist. That makes Gomez an artist and a magician and a gift to all of us. ▼

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Emasculated

by John Karr

The Invisibles — A Tale of the Eunuchs of India by Zia Jaffrey (Vintage Books, paper, \$14.95) is a fascinating, compulsively readable investigation of the shocking abuse and mutilation of homosexuals of the lower castes in India. The book explores an outcast group, lower than the low: crossdressing, emasculated eunuchs, who live in communal tribes and perform at weddings for alms, a ritual many call extortion.

The historical origins of this treatment of homosexually-identified men are shrouded in secrecy, as are the details of the emasculation ceremony, and the inner workings of the tribes themselves. In her first book after an apprenticeship as a magazine writer, author Jaffrey, without revealing her own sexual identity, writes with unusual empathy concerning homosexuality as she unveils the true story of these "invisible" people.

In India, where homosexuality is still a taboo subject, the lower castes routinely disown their sexually-ambiguous male children, treating them as an interstitial sex that demands their neutering. The homeless children seem to elect their neutering as a means of at-



Crossdressing outcast

taining "membership" in the only family open to them.

Jaffrey's book combines travelogue with history, delving into ancient religious texts which document the origins of this tradition. She reproduces the work of scholars who have previously attempted to study the tribes, and meets with the police, who have jurisdiction over their lives. And she penetrates the eunuchs' compounds, gaining their trust as none have before, to obtain firsthand the interviews which make *The Invisibles* an exotic, riveting, and sadly moving book. ▼

Carnal entanglements

by Glen Helfand

The Letters of Mina Harker by Dodie Bellamy; Hard Press/Lingo Books

Real life and literature are both highly personal constructs, one just seems more intentional than the other. With *The Letters of Mina Harker*, San Francisco-based writer Dodie Bellamy has blurred the sometimes tenuous boundaries between reality and the believable fantasy that emerges from convincing writing. It's an intimate, somewhat baroque book that has the feeling of keenly observed journal entries squeezed through a fracturing filter of memory, fantasy, pop culture, feminist theory, and quotidian confrontations with mentally-disturbed urbanites. Bellamy meticulously pieces it all back together in the form of letters which blaze with subjectivity and truth, yet are firmly rooted in the realm of fiction. "[A]ll that was sick or hysterical about her behavior in day-to-day life could be turned into something valuable through the act of writing," she explains in the first pages.

This meticulously-crafted, sex-filled book seems like experimental roman a clef, with the author, by name, serving as a quasi-narrator. But Bellamy purposefully, and effectively, mixes up the distinctions between memoir and fiction. Her focus here falls firmly on the emotionally-charged and erotic — perfect fodder for her explorations in subjectivity. Set in very believable late 1880s and early 90s San Francisco bohemia, the book comprises a fevered catalog of lovers and carnal entanglements with complicated and/or inappropriate men. The narrator's solid relationship with her husband, KK, a gay man (and a double for Bellamy's actual spouse, writer Kevin Killian), is "enigmatic" but definitely physical, while her extramarital activities with a married man, a young writer, and a more benign guy named Rendezvous sputter with passion and the kinds of dysfunctions that fuel a story. "No lover no narrative...just the incredible pull of lingerie," she writes.

Impressions of each of her men are filtered through the narrator's undisguised alter ego/doppelganger, Mina Harker, Dracula's martyred lover in Bram Stoker's

horror classic. Mina's forthrightness is at schizophrenic odds with Dodie's more reserved musings, which are seamlessly intertwined. As the heroine of *Dracula*, Mina is marked with contradiction: virtuous Victorian infected with dark, vampiric desire. At Bellamy's service, Mina's as much a 19th-century literary invention as B-movie babe — the star of the trashy horror movies that Dodie, as co-narrator, often watches on video. As in those films, Mina's carnal appetites seem almost constantly inflamed, and her id-like thoughts burst, italicized, into Dodie's mind like poetic Tourette syndrome interjections: "sheathed in his molecules I felt positively amniotic."

Tiny bubbles

The book uses the notion of life as narrative, so its structure doesn't follow linear conventions. The narrator's lovers drift back into her memory and her life at unexpected moments, like bubbles that irregularly dislodge from the bottom of a glass of cheap champagne. They pop with un-

easy effervescence. Such moments send Dodie and Mina back into sensual recollection. Each letter digresses into vivid descriptions of theme parties in funky Mission Street warehouses or a description of palm fronds flying down Dolores during a freak storm, but it all serves to capture a life in what the narrator might call, winkingly, a bell jar.

Bellamy erects warm walls of language that, while ultra-rich, rarely feel overwrought or self-indulgent. It's a reading experience that strikes a deft balance between comfort and claustrophobia. The reader is seduced by a dazzling swirl of interiority that can turn waiting for a train in the Muni Metro into something filled with queasy meaning. "Through the windows humans newspapers briefcases the occasional quality paperback are packed in there like ice cream, a carton of hot stuffy ice cream," she writes.

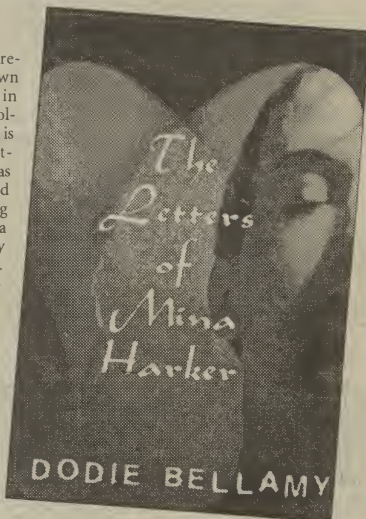
Bellamy revels in the way that subjectivity can inflate, magnify and animate aspects of everyday life. She's so insistently theatrical

that you may re-imagine your own daily activities in glamorous terminology. But then, this is a book about writing, with Bellamy as the woman behind the curtain creating and controlling a dazzling, ultimately fabricated universe. And she's hyper-aware of her role:

"[A] dagger pokes out from between my words and pierces the reader's throat a mysterious light appears on the face of my writhing victim: the page is a mirror reflecting bright cinematic lights (I am behind it with my raspy hyperventilated snicker)."

There's a definite whiff of pathology that pervades these proceedings, and Bellamy sug-

gests it's of a literary nature. "My vocabulary did this to me," the narrator admits. In this case, it's a welcome affliction. ▼



Broughton

◀ page 68

the poems of his later years, Broughton wrote movingly of the scourge of AIDS, of age itself, of the passing of time, of his own passing. Turns out he truly was packing up for paradise, but he leaves an unequalled legacy in this parcel of his collected poems.

While the earlier collection was a condensation of each published volume of Broughton's poetry with an addenda of recent works, *Packing Up for Paradise* throws all the poems up in the air and lets them settle free of chronology, presenting them in thematic groups. Broughton's message of joy, as well as his message of great, slobbering carnal gusto, sings gleefully on every page of this splendid book. You should buy it for yourself, for a loved one, or, better still, for someone you want to love you. ▼

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